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## ILO: 25m jobs could be lost worldwide in Covid-19 gap

By Guardian Reporter

THE economic and labour crisis created by the Covid-19 pandemic could increase global unemployment by almost 25 million, according to a new assessment by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

However, the UN agency noted that if the world sees an internationally coordinated policy response, as happened in the global financial crisis of 2008/9, then the impact on global unemployment could be significantly lower.

The preliminary assessment note, 'COVID-19 and the world of work: Impacts and responses,' calls for urgent, large-scale and coordinated measures across three pillars: protecting workers in the workplace, stimulating the economy and employment, and supporting jobs and incomes.

"These measures include extending social protection, supporting employment retention (i.e. short-time work, paid leave, other subsidies) and financial and tax relief, including for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. In addition, the note proposes fiscal and monetary policy measures plus lending and financial support for specific economic sectors," the ILO says in a statement



...the strain on incomes resulting from the decline in economic activity will devastate workers close to or below the poverty line

released from Geneva yesterday.

Based on different scenarios for the impact of Covid-19 on global GDP growth, ILO estimates indicate a rise in global unemployment of between 5.3 million ("low" scenario) and 24.7 million ("high" scenario) from a base level of 188 million in 2019. By comparison, the 2008-9 global financial crisis increased global unemployment by 22 million.

Underemployment is also expected to increase on a large scale, as the economic consequences of the virus outbreak translate into reductions in working hours and wages. Self-employment in developing countries, which often serves to cushion the impact of changes, may not do so this time because of restrictions on the movement of people (e.g. service providers) and goods.

Falls in employment also mean large income losses for workers. The study estimates likely losses at USD 860 billion lower end estimates

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# Hope rises as 26 contacts of first Covid-19 patient all test negative

## ● Cases double as three more infected people discovered



A small trader peddles masks and gloves along the Mwenge stretch of Dar es Salaam's Sam Nujoma Road yesterday, the protective gear having gained unprecedented popularity and attracted higher prices in recent days than previously owing to the global spread of the much-dreaded Covid-19 pandemic. Photo: Selemani Mpochi

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

THREE more cases had turned up positive in Dar es Salaam by yesterday, bringing the total number to six, while all 26 people who had come into contact with Tanzania's first coronavirus patient have tested negative.

A statement released yesterday by the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Elderly and Children said that the new cases involved Tanzanian nationals who travelled abroad recently.

Dr Janneth Mghamba, Assistant Director for Epidemiology and Disease Control said the 26 include a taxi driver who chauffeured the first patient, Isabella Mwampamba, from the Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA) to a hotel in Arusha city.

"The tests were carried out three times at the government laboratory based in Dar es Salaam and came out negative," she said, noting however, that the persons were still being observed by health authorities.

Tanzania's patient zero Mwampamba who was declared positive on Monday has also since reported to be doing well after developing Covid-19 symptoms upon touching down at KIA on Sunday from Europe.

This comes as a relief since the fears were rife that many of the contacts would have been affected and transmit the infection further to others in the vicinity of their residences in particular, a common scenario where the pandemic has hit hard.

Two more cases were confirmed in Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar by Wednesday, with health authorities tracking scores of people who came into contact with the patients.

The confirmation of positive cases has



The tests were carried out three times at the government laboratory based in Dar es Salaam and came out negative

seen Tanzania plunge into a partial lockdown with closure of learning institutions from kindergarten to university to slow down the pace of Covid-19 spread. Non essential travel has also been discouraged and gatherings, including official meetings cancelled until further notice.

With the outbreak now declared a pandemic, the nightmare for countries with confirmed cases is contact tracing—a vital tool for public health activity that helps make possible early diagnosis and putting into care people who need it. The information it uncovers helps public health authorities to contain the epidemic.

Africa has so far been spared a major outbreak of coronavirus but World Health Organization director Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus warned on Wednesday that the continent should "wake up" and prepare for the worst.

On Wednesday, Burkina Faso registered the first death in sub-Saharan Africa in Rose-Marie Compaore, the first-vice president of Parliament. She was 62 and suffering from diabetes.

South Africa has ordered all bars to close, or limit their patrons to a maximum of 50, at risk of a fine or imprisonment. It has also banned all cruise ships from its ports, while Kenya has suspended worship in

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## Home meals stop after Prisons suspend visits

By Guardian Reporter

REMANDEES who were used to home-cooked meals will now have to do with portions provided by correctional facilities following the suspension of all prison visits due to the coronavirus pandemic.

A spokesperson for the Tanzania Prisons Service, Amina Kavirondo told reporters in Dodoma yesterday that all visits to remandees



So far, some 85,000 prisoners have been released

and prisoners have been halted indefinitely from yesterday as the government monitors the Covid-19 situation in the country.

This comes as a blow to remandees who during work days were allowed to receive one visit either in the morning or afternoon. On weekends and holidays rules were loosened to allow multiple visits from 9am to 2pm. During these visits, remandees received food and other permitted necessities.

This allowed some remandees especially those from well-to-do families to enjoy sumptuous home-cooked food for the entire period they stay in prison.

As for convicted inmates, the general orders allow visits only during weekends and holidays

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## Speaker recalls MPs on committee work

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

NATIONAL Assembly Speaker Job Ndagai (pictured) has recalled parliamentary committees on work duties in different parts of the country to return to Dodoma over the coronavirus outbreak.

Addressing a press conference here yesterday,



he said the move is meant to take precautions against spreading the deadly disease following the government directive that people should avoid crowded places.

He has also banned visitors coming to parliament grounds during working sessions of the legislature, stating that parliamentary committees will henceforth conduct their activities within parliament premises.

"I hereby direct parliamentary committees to discharge all their duties within the House premises, working in day and night shifts," he said, elaborating that the necessary precautions have been up in the premises.

Ndagai explained that a lot of budget analysing activities are done online and now

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## Hope rises as 26 contacts of first Covid-19 patient all test negative

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some churches and mosques, and the government said it will manufacture its own hand sanitiser and distribute it for free, in a bid to tackle shortages.

Uganda and Botswana have closed all schools while Chad has suspended all passenger flights and closed some land borders. Liberia, which has confirmed one case, has stopped issuing passports in a bid to stop people travelling and potentially pick up the virus abroad. Mauritius, an Indian Ocean tourist hot spot, has confirmed its first three cases - two cruise ship workers and a British

tourist.

Elsewhere, Spain's death toll yesterday soared by 209 to 767 fatalities overnight, as Russia announced that a 79-year-old woman with the virus was recorded as the country's first confirmed death resulting from the pandemic.

Italy, the country most affected by the coronavirus outside China, reported a further 475 deaths from Covid-19 on Wednesday. Michel Barnier, the EU's chief Brexit negotiator, has tested positive for coronavirus yesterday.

## Home meals stop after Prisons suspend visits

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where they are permitted to receive necessities for day-to-day use from visitors but not food.

No one will be allowed to visit prisons; food for all remandees and prisoners will be provided by the Prisons Department, she said.

The decision has been made in response to the government's directive against gatherings that can lead to further spread of the deadly virus that has since been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organisation. By yesterday, Tanzania had six confirmed cases of Covid-19.

Some hard-hit countries have taken more drastic measures including prisoner release. On Tuesday, Iran temporarily freed thousands of additional prisoners, including political prisoners, in an attempt to reduce pressure on its prisons system as the country struggles to contain the spread of coronavirus.

The announcement came after the judiciary said last week that 70,000 prisoners had temporarily been released, mostly non-violent offenders

serving short prison sentences.

"So far, some 85,000 prisoners have been released," judiciary spokesman Gholamhossein Esmaili said.

The decision came after worldwide cancellations of cruise ships due to the outbreak, conferences and closed schools. The fear is that outbreaks in prisons could be devastating due to nature of the facilities.

Proponents of the move argue that in a prison, multiple people can be placed in one cell. Hallways and gathering places are often small and tight (often deliberately so, to make it easier to control inmates). There is literally no escape, with little to no space for social distancing or similar recommendations experts make to combat coronavirus.



First Lady Janeth Magufuli presents an assortment of items to representatives of children cared for at the House of Hope at a function held at Chamwino State House in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: State House

By Guardian Reporter

FIRST lady Janeth Magufuli has appealed to various institutions, organisations, businesses and Good Samaritans to extend their support to vulnerable groups including children living in difficult conditions.

According to her, supporting the needy people fulfill the great commandment of love.

She made the call yesterday at Chamwino State House in Dodoma shortly after she donated different items to orphanage centers and children with special needs.

The first lady handed over the donated items to representatives of the children accompanied by some of

## First Lady appeals for more support to vulnerable groups

their care takers. The decision to invite a few people at the function is in line with government's directive of avoiding gatherings due to the presence of Coronavirus (COVID-19).

She added: "Since it is the lent period, it is important for us to show love to our children as well as other vulnerable groups. By supporting others we commemorate the suffering of Jesus Christ as per Isaiah 58: 7 which encourages believers to fast, pray and

extend support to the needy".

Lent is a Christian annual period that starts on Ash Wednesday lasting for 40 days (not including Sundays) representing the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness.

The lent period started February 26th 2020 and expected to end on Thursday, April 9th with evening mass on Holy Thursday.

Isaiah 58:7 reads - "Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to

the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help."

She said: "I am today handing over these items to children as part of my fulfillment to the commandments of love".

The donated items includes two tonnes of rice and maize flour, 830kgs of beans, cooking oil, sugar, biscuits, drinks, soap, clothes, bed sheets, shoes, body oil and mosquito nets.



Schools, colleges and universities across the country closed for 30 days on orders from the government as a precaution against the spread of Covid-19, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences students vacate their Dar es Salaam campus quarters yesterday for home. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msaia

## Speaker recalls MPs on committee work

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that the legislature has gone digital, MPs can do their work online in an effort to avoid bringing groups of people together at this trying moment.

The legislature has 10 sector committees that will now have to fold whatever they were doing and return to Dodoma until further notice.

The sector committees are Agriculture, Livestock and Water Committee; Infrastructure Development, Energy and Minerals Committee; Industries, Trade and Environment Committee;

Constitution and Legal Affairs Committee, along with the Regional Administration and Local Government Affairs Committee.

Others are the Social Services and Community Development Committee; Land, Natural Resources and Tourism Committee; Foreign Affairs, Defense and Security Committee, and the Subsidiary Legislations Committee.

There are also crosscutting committees like the Budget Committee and the HIV/AIDS Committee. There are also three watchdog committees, namely

the Public Accounts Committee, the Local Authorities Accounts Committee and the Public Investments Committee.

On Wednesday, the government said two new patients of foreign origin had been reported, from the US and Germany.

One case was confirmed in Dar es Salaam and one in Zanzibar, with the first case of coronavirus infection reported on Monday in the northern city of Arusha.

The patient, a 46-year-old Tanzanian lady had returned from Belgium on Sunday aboard a Rwandair plane.

## ILO: 25m jobs could be lost worldwide in Covid-19 gap

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and USD 3.4 trillion upper end estimates by the end of this year. This will translate into falls in consumption of goods and services, in turn affecting the prospects for businesses and economies.

Working poverty is expected to increase significantly too, as "the strain on incomes resulting from the decline in economic activity will devastate workers close to or below the poverty line." The ILO estimates that between 8.8m and 35 million additional people will be in working poverty worldwide,

compared to original estimate for 2020 (which projected a decline of 14 million jobs worldwide).

The ILO note warns that certain groups will be disproportionately affected by the jobs crisis, which could increase inequality. These include people in less protected and low-paid jobs, particularly youth and older workers. Women and migrants are vulnerable due to the lack of social protection and rights, and women tend to be over-represented in low-paid jobs and affected sectors.

"In times of crisis like the

current one, we have two key tools that can help mitigate the damage and restore public confidence. Firstly, social dialogue, engaging with workers and employers and their representatives, is vital for building public trust and support for the measures that we need to overcome this crisis. Secondly, international labour standards provide a tried-and-trusted foundation for policy responses that focus on a recovery that is sustainable and equitable. Everything needs to be done to minimize the damage to people at this difficult time," the statement concluded.



By Henry Mwangonde

# SADC council of ministers endorses \$94 million in budget for 2020/2021

COUNCIL of Ministers of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries has endorsed a USD 94.310 million budget for the coming financial year with three major priorities.

The priorities include industrial development, road infrastructure construction, political restraint, defense and security and improvement of social services such as health, education, gender and environment.

This was revealed by SADC Secretary General Dr Stergomena Tax in Dar es Salaam at the closing of the SADC Council of Ministers comprising of ministers for Finance and Planning, Industry and Trade and Foreign Affairs and EA Cooperation.

"The 2020/21 Financial Year starts in April while FY 2019/20 ends in

March, today one among the agendas discussed by the Council of Ministers is the endorsement of the SADC Budget for the new 2020/21 Financial Year which is USD 94,319,815 which has been unanimously approved.

Dr Tax said in August this year SADC will celebrate 40 years of its existence and the event will be held in Mozambique during the SADC Summit meeting.

On the meeting being conducted via video conference Dr Tax said it was held with great success and 13 countries participated.

She said the money used to buy

the communication equipment was provided by SADC Secretariat and the connection was done by the Tanzania Telecommunication Company Ltd (TTCL).

On the Coronavirus disease Dr Tax said the SADC region has more than one case and has spread to various countries hence suggested for joint concerted effort to confront the epidemic.

She said SADC has been using the Medical Stores Department (MSD) for purchase of drugs and medical equipment to fight Coronavirus and have agreed to continue using MSD for

drugs and other equipment to fight the epidemic.

For his part, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and EA Cooperation who is the chairman of the SADC Council of Ministers Prof Palamagamba Kabudi

said the meeting was closely followed up by various countries of the world.

He said the ministers will again meet in June in a special meeting to prepare agendas to be submitted for discussion at the SADC Heads of State Summit

meeting in Mozambique.

The ministers will also review and approve recommendations from various sectors before being taken to the summit where the country's president Filipe Nyusi will be handed over the chairmanship.

SADC has a total of 16 member states namely, Comoros, Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Seychelles, Eswatini, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.



Natural Resources and Tourism deputy minister Constantine Kanyasu (in glasses) is briefed yesterday on motorcycles said to have been impounded recently in Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Manyara and Tanga by members of the anti-poaching squad. Photo: MoNT

# Immigration arrests 73 'illegal immigrants' in Songwe region

By Guardian Correspondent,

Songwe

IMMIGRATION officials in Songwe Region last month arrested 73 illegal immigrants from nine foreign countries.

Speaking with this paper, Songwe Regional Immigration Officer Wilfred Marwa, said those nabbed had come from Somalia, Kenya, USA, India, Congo, Burundi, Ethiopia, Malawi and Zambia.

He said most of the illegal migrants came from neighbouring countries including 30 from Malawi, Zambia (19), Congo DRC (6), China (6), Ethiopia (6), Somalia (3), USA (1), Burundi (1) and Kenya (3).

Marwa said many of the aliens crossed the border into Tanzania through unauthorized routes thus warning citizens not to shelter them especially at this time of the Coronavirus disease.

"We have more than 150km common land border with Malawi which is porous hence there are many illegal crossing places for the immigrants to pass through," he said.

A Songwe region resident Abubakar Ali said the region has many unauthorised routes for the foreigners to infiltrate and asked the government to take stern measures against them including Tanzanians who harbour them.

Michael Swila, a

resident of Momba district in Songwe region said there is a huge interaction of people of various nationalities at the Tunduma border town and called for the government to suspend for some time some of activities at the border following the eruption of the Coronavirus disease.

In February this year, Shaaban Hatibu, Head of Immigration Department in Mbeya region said 71 illegal immigrants from different countries were arrested by immigration authorities following a one-week operation.

Hatibu said the aliens were found working in the country's southern highlands region of Mbeya without valid residence and work permits.

Hatibu said six Tanzanians were also arrested during the operation for helping

the aliens to enter into the country without valid permits.

He said some arrested illegal immigrants will

be repatriated to their countries of origin, others will be fined, and some of them will be charged in courts for illegal stay.

**SUPER EMACO LIMITED**  
MEMBERS VOLUNTARY WINDING UP OF THE COMPANY  
THE COMPANIES ACT, 2002

Notice is hereby given that the Members of Super Emaco Limited have resolved to wind up the company voluntarily and has appointed Leah Karunde of Reach Aal Company Limited, Po Box 60558, Dar es Salaam as Liquidator for the purpose of winding up the company.

Creditors of Super Emaco Limited are required to send their names and addresses with full particulars of their debts or claims against the said company to the liquidator and proof of their debts or claims.

Dated this 17 March 2020

LIQUIDATOR

**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

**IN THE FAIR COMPETITION TRIBUNAL AT DAR ES SALAAM**

**APPEAL NO. 02 OF 2020**

**BETWEEN**

**SIX TELECOMS COMPANY LIMITED.....APPELLANT**

**AND**

**TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY.....RESPONDENT**

**(Notice pursuant to Rule 16 of the Fair Competition Tribunal Rules, 2012)**

**TAKE NOTICE THAT** an appeal has been lodged in the Tribunal against the whole decision of the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) in respect of cancellation of licences.

The appeal is based on the grounds that the decision is not based on evidence produced, is erroneous in law and contravenes the legal procedures applicable to TCRA. Thus, the Appellant prays, among others, order to quash and set aside the decision with costs.

**BY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE** any person who considers that he has sufficient interest may apply to intervene in the proceedings within seven days of the first publication of this notice to the Fair Competition Tribunal, 2nd Floor, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology Building, Jamhuri Street, Dar Es Salaam.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL** of the Tribunal this 20th March, 2020.

**REGISTRAR**

**UNHCR**  
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

**INVITATION TO BID (ITB)**  
**ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL FRAME AGREEMENTS FOR SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ASSORTED NON-FOOD ITEMS**

**1. Background:**  
The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Representation Office in Dar es Salaam invites reputable and qualified suppliers and manufacturers to submit firm offers for Establishment of multiple Frame Agreements for the supply and delivery of any or all of the below listed Non-Food Items.

**2. Requirement:**

| TENDER REFERENCE NUMBER | TENDER ITEM DESCRIPTION |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| ITB/2020/SUP/013        | Fleece Blankets         |
| ITB/2020/SUP/014        | Wrappers (Khanga)       |
| ITB/2020/SUP/018        | Multi-purpose Soap Bars |

**3. Eligibility:**  
Manufacturers, authorized resellers, wholesalers, or traders duly registered with relevant government authorities, with sound financial basis, relevant experience, reputed clientele and with knowledge of how to meet UNHCR's needs are invited to participate in the bidding process.

The tender documents can be collected from the following UNHCR Offices:

UNHCR Representation Office Tanzania  
Plot 1658 Masaki, Rufiji Street  
P.O. Box 2666 - **Dar es Salaam**

UNHCR Field Office Kasulu  
Kimobwa (Mlimani Area)  
P.O. Box 332 - **Kasulu, Kigoma**

UNHCR Sub- Office Kibondo  
Kabigwa (Near TANESCO)  
P.O. Box 49, **Kibondo**

UNHCR Field Unit Mwanza  
Mwanza Airport  
P.O. Box 2273 - **Mwanza**

**CRUCIAL DATES FOR THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Deadline for receiving requests for clarification | Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2020 at 16.00 hours EAT |
| Deadline for submission of offers                 | Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2020 16.00 hours EAT    |

*UNHCR tenders are free of charge, no fees are charged to collect the tenders.*



The Bank for a Working Nation

**CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER**  
**NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE LIMITED**

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR VARIOUS SERVICES

- National Bank of Commerce Limited has set aside funds for the procurement of various services during financial year 2019/2020, it is intended that, part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the various contracts.
- Request for proposal is open to all eligible service providers with proven experience and capacity to offer the required services. Interested eligible bidders are invited to apply for the provision of below list of services;
  - Event Planning & Management
  - Public Relation & Press Coverage
  - Pre-Employment Screening
  - Supply and Personalization of Debit Cards
- Request for Proposal documents can be downloaded from the website [www.nbc.co.tz](http://www.nbc.co.tz) and then click 'Procurement' to access the document.
- All Proposals in one original and one copy set properly filled in, and enclosed in sealed envelope marked as per service name written on the RFP Document and should be addressed to; **CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE LIMITED, HEAD OFFICE BUILDING, 6<sup>th</sup> FLOOR, and P. O. BOX 1863 DAR ES SALAAM.**
- Sealed applications and bids must be submitted no later than **Friday, 03<sup>rd</sup> April 2020 at 1600 hrs.** Proposal shall be delivered by hand to the Tender Box located at reception of Head Office building, ground Floor along Sokoine Drive/Azikiwe Street.

[www.nbc.co.tz](http://www.nbc.co.tz)

# TENDER NOTICE



## MCT and TEF call for ethical COVID-19 epidemic coverage

By Guardian Reporter

THE Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) and Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF) yesterday appealed to journalists to adhere to professionalism in reporting issues related to the outbreak of Coronavirus.

In their statements, the self-regulatory organs said the subject is sensitive hence the need for journalists not to sensationalise contents driven by desire to sell more copies.

MCT Executive Secretary, Kajubi Mukajanga has said: "We have to report the pandemic accurately and should avoid to capitalise through sensational headlines to boost sales. When you have a disaster of such magnitude it is pertinent to know that there will be so much information whose accuracy is not guaranteed".

"At the same time there will be others who will be fabricating issues and post on social media...there will be so much fake news," he cautioned.

In such situation, we should strive to establish the truth so that we do not become part of the problem by disseminating false information.

Mukajanga also cautioned on the tendency of turning disasters into commercial opportunities.

"If we are not careful, journalists may also take advantage of this disaster by using the corona virus pandemic to boost sales", he said insisting headlines should project real situation instead of creating panic.

For television, Mukajanga advised that they should be rational and careful on the photos they use.

Citing the wearing masks, the World Health Organisation (WHO), he said had underscored their importance and that they are meant for those infected and those caring for them.

He said this calamity is multi dimensional as it affects not only health but also the economy, culture and sports. He advised media that the pandemic requires comprehensive reporting with comparisons of other calamities.

He also appealed to media to stick to

journalism and avoid to be preachers on corona and urged them to use statistics accurately.

He also appealed to the media to apply the statistic in context to avoid creating panic.

Emphasizing on the pivotal role of the media, Mukajanga said "we are the ones who inform the public and at the same time take information from the leaders to the public and give feedback to the leaders. We need to abide by professional requirements".

He urged the media to use reputable sources such as the government and WHO and avoid picking reckless posts from social media.

TEF Chairman Deodatus Balile called on the media to prioritise news about COVID-19 to increase awareness to the public and educate them on how they can prevent themselves from the disease.

"We also call upon clerics and politicians to use various platforms to educate the public on the outbreak of Coronavirus in our country. Authorities should also take measures to protect people at some areas that are at high risk such as bus stations, markets and those using commuter transport," said Balile.

He said TEF recognises and appreciates various measures taken by the government to prevent spreading of the disease as well as curative measures to suspected COVID-19 patients.



**If we are not careful, journalists may also take advantage of this disaster by using the corona virus pandemic to boost sales**



Instructors of clusters under Project Concern International (PCI-WE), which is designed to empower women and girls in Musoma District, hold bicycles presented to them in implementation of the project to help them move around more easily and therefore enhance productivity. Right is Musoma Rural legislator Prof Sospeter Muhongo. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Tanzanian BMH doctors perform first kidney transplant successfully

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

FOR the first time, local doctors at the Benjamin Mkapa Hospital (BMH) have successfully performed kidney transplant surgery.

Previously, the kidney transplant was performed at the hospital with collaboration from the University of Dodoma (UDOM) experts and those from Tokushukai Medical Corporation in Japan.

The hospital's Executive Director, Dr Alphonse Chandika told media that, the BMH doctors have successfully performed the surgery because of good medical experience from Japan experts.

The kidney transplant was

performed on March 3, this year and the patient Emanuel Kahigi from Geita is in good progress.

He acknowledged the great support from Japan, saying that Japan has tremendously helped to raise awareness and contribute to the cost of living for BNH specialists who went to the country for studying kidney transplantation.

Dr Chandika added that; "We will continue to partner with them in case there is a patient who will have a big transplant problem, we are happy for the first surgery performed in our hospital without the help from the foreigner specialists."

He said the hospital will find out how they can also establish the special

kidney transplantation course to help other local experts to gain the knowledge.

Dr Masumbuko Mashambwa, is among the team of BMH doctors who have successfully performed the surgery, he said that the surgery took ten hours.

"We took ten hours because it was the first time for us to perform it without a help from foreigner specialists, we are now transplanting the kidney without any problems," he said.

Dr Mashambwa said that the demand for kidney transplantation is very high.

He told his fellow specialist that they should not use large blood vessels (Femoral Vein) as

it leads to complications during transplantation.

However, the Head of the Kidney Disease Unit at the hospital, Dr Kessy Shija, said there were many patients going for transplantation but the government has continued to strengthen its specialist services so that patients can be treated in the country with low cost.

Dr Shija explained that, a kidney transplant patient treated at BMH had been ill for a long time and had not seen his urine for five years but has now recovered after the surgery.

For many years, Tanzanians suffering from Kidney failure had to be referred abroad, especially to India for the procedure.



A traffic police officer sensitises people awaiting departure from Morogoro municipality's terminal by bus yesterday on the need for enhancing personal hygiene and taking other precautions to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. Photo: Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa

## Decline in prevalence of poaching in southern highlands regions attributed to conservation-enhancement strategy

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

POACHING incidences in Ruaha, Kitulo and Katavi national parks in the southern highland regions has declined for the past two consecutive years following beefy strategies set by the government and stakeholders to fight the vice.

According to the senior Commissioner of the Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) in Southern Zone Dr Christopher Timbuka, the government has managed to break the poaching network in the areas as most of the poachers have disappeared with others being arrested and jailed.

"We have invested much in the areas by having enough game rangers and essential equipment to fight poaching in all national parks the factor which has contributed to the drop of poaching cases," he said.

He said the fifth phase government has put great effort in tackling poaching in the country something which has seen the number of wild animals like elephants, buffaloes and giraffes also increasing.

Dr Timbuka also said the authority has also witnessed considerable poaching control over the harvesting of the Chikanda crop (wild orchid) in the Kitulo national park.

According to him, in the previous

years, poachers were also engaging in harvesting the wild orchid found in the park after finding that the crop was having a large market demand in and outside Tanzania.

The senior official also acknowledged the good support from the community living close to the national parks, saying that people around the area have greatly contributed to the decline of poaching.

He added that poaching at Katavi and Ruaha national parks has remained history to animals like elephants something which has been contributed by strengthened regular patrols through aircrafts.

"We have continued to invest in public awareness programmes to educate them on the importance of engaging in wildlife protection. TANAPA has also continued to strengthen good neighborhood between national parks and the local communities for sustainable protection," he added.

Kitulo National Park is a protected area of montane grassland and montane forest on the Kitulo Plateau found in Iringa region in the southern highlands of Tanzania.

Ruaha national park is one of the few Tanzania's famous wilderness area found in Iringa region. Katavi National Park is located in Katavi region.

LILONGWE

## CSOs call for decongestion in Malawi prisons as response to Covid-19

WITH the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic having been declared a global emergency, there is an urgent need to address the high levels of congestion in Malawi prisons, civil society organisations (CSOs) have said.

The CSOs that have issued the statement are Centre for Human Rights Advice Assistance and Education (CHREAA), Youth Watch Society, Paralegal Resource Centre, Southern Africa Litigation Centre and Child Rights Advocacy and Paralegal Aid Centre.

The Malawi government appointed

a Special Cabinet Committee on coronavirus effective 7 March 2020, which was established to provide overall policy guidance, assess the impact and oversee the government's response to the threats posed by COVID-19.

"This is commendable. We understand that one of the objectives of this Special Cabinet Committee is to recommend proactive measures to prevent the occurrence and subsequent spread of Covid-19 in Malawi," a statement by the CSOs

reads.

The CSOs contend that although Malawi does not currently have any registered case of Coronavirus, urgent holistic preventive measures are required focusing on the most vulnerable groups in our society, including prisoners.

"Without such preventive measures, Covid-19, once introduced, can rapidly spread in the country. For example, in South Africa, we have seen confirmed infections increase within the last 5 days from 16 to 85,"

the statement says.

It adds that it is a well-known fact that the Malawi Prisons are overcrowded with over 14,000 prisoners against a capacity of 5,000 prisoners.

"According to the 2019 report of the Inspectorate of Prisons the Malawi prison population is at 260 percent of the official capacity. Given the scale and the speed with which the Covid-19 virus has been spreading elsewhere, once the virus penetrates Malawi, our prisons will rapidly contribute to the number of infections, and our

current prison conditions will result in much higher mortality rates than seen elsewhere," the CSOs say.

They therefore call on President Peter Mutharika to urgently exercise his prerogative powers under section 89(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Malawi to pardon some convicted offenders or grant stays of execution of sentences, reduce sentences and remit sentences in order to reduce congestion in prison.

"Priority should be given to those that are terminally ill, older persons,

persons with TB and other chronic illnesses and those who have served a substantial part of their sentences. We urge the President to prevent the detention in prison of all migrants who are detained on immigration-related charges.

"We further urge the President to release all prisoners who are serving time for minor offences including contempt of court, being idle and disorderly, being a rogue and vagabond, common nuisance and breach of peace," says the statement.





Business and Human Rights Tanzania managing director Flaviana Charles addresses rights stakeholders at a meeting in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## Business community challenged to grab potential markets in AfCFTA

By Guardian Correspondent, Sumbawanga

AS the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement is set to start on July 1st, 2020 local business persons have been advised to come up with comprehensive business and investment strategies to secure a competitive position in the proposed continental market.

Tanzania is among the African Union (AU) member countries that have deposited their instruments of ratification towards the creation of a single continental market for goods and services, with free movement of business persons and investments, among other main objectives.

President of the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) Paul Koyi made the statement during his tour in Sumbawanga district, Rukwa region on Wednesday.

According to him, The AfCFTA is also expected to enhance competitiveness at the industry and enterprise level through exploitation of opportunities for scale production, continental market access and better reallocation of resources.

"There is a need to prepare our business persons so as to enable them to secure a competitive position in the continental market once it is launched. It will be a shame to see business persons from outside the country come and dominate Tanzania's market," said the TCCIA boss.

Koyi said TCCIA in collaboration with the government authorities and development partners is contemplating to consult business persons across the country through trade and investment forums with a view to building their capacities.

"I acknowledge that the government is yet to bring the matter to the Parliament for further discussion and approval, but I am informed that the matter will be tabled in the House this soon," said Koyi.

The 18th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in January 2012, adopted a decision to establish a Continental Free Trade Area by an indicative date of 2017. This deadline was, however, not met.

Until March 2018 when African leaders held an Extraordinary Summit in Kigali, Rwanda, during which the Agreement establishing the AfCFTA was presented for signature, along with the Kigali Declaration and the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community relating to the Free Movement of Persons, Right to Residence and Right to Establishment.

In total, 44 out of the 55 AU member states including Tanzania signed the consolidated text of the AfCFTA Agreement, 47 signed the Kigali Declaration and 30 signed the Protocol on Free Movement.

According to sources, the AfCFTA will be governed by five operational instruments; the rules of origin; the online negotiating forum; the monitoring and elimination of non-tariff barriers; a digital payments system and the African Trade Observatory.

The sources further indicate that the AfCFTA will bring together all 55 member states of the African Union covering a market of more than 1.2 billion people, including a growing middle class, and a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of more than US\$3.4 trillion.

In terms of number of participating countries, the AfCFTA will be the world's largest free trade area since the formation of the World Trade Organisation.

Estimates from the Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) suggest that the AfCFTA has the potential both to boost intra-African trade by 52.3 percent by eliminating import duties, and to double this trade if non-tariff barriers are also reduced.

## Company in Iringa offers awareness training, protective gear to motorcycle and bajaj riders

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

IN efforts to fight the spread of corona virus in the country, the Iringa-based Asas Dairies Company has embarked on a hand-washing campaign which involves providing awareness training and protective gear to motorcycle and Bajaj drivers in Iringa municipal.

Speaking to reporters during the exercise, Workplace Safety Officer from Asas Cosmas Charles said the company has provided over 300 buckets of hand sanitizers to the drivers to support the government's efforts to combat corona disease which has now become a global threat.

"The population which has benefited from the support includes drivers parking near MR Hotel, Ipogoro market and bus stand, Iringa Market, Mahiwa and Frelimo motorcycle centres.

"We have responded to government's directives on adherence to hygiene and sanitation in the workplace as part of combating the spread of corona virus infection after launching a hand washing campaign and equipped every 'bodaboda' centre with the protective tools which also allows the drivers and passengers to wash their hands," he said.

He further encouraged the general community to build a culture of keeping

themselves clean in the environment they live in and the culture of the hand-washing should go on. Charles said that the culture of having a clean environment was important, not only for fighting corona but also other outbreaks such as cholera epidemic.

Chairman of the union of bajaj drivers in Iringa, Norbert Sunka commended Asas saying the support had come at the right time and promised to make the best use of the health education and the protective tools extended to the population.

"In fact the company has been a great help to the people of Iringa region. As a leader I will mobilise others to ensure

that the public get right information concerning the diseases and its preventive measures," he said.

Meanwhile, drivers in various centres in the region requested the company and other stakeholders to provide them with more protective equipment and proper education on Coronavirus.

They were concerned that most of them were being fed with rumors something which creates fear and misinformation among the people.

According to them, bodaboda drivers are working in difficult environment something which forces them to be more careful and clean when serving their clients.

By Guardian Reporter

The African Development Bank (AfDB) has announced health and safety measures to help curb the spread of the coronavirus in countries where it has a presence, including its headquarters in Abidjan.

The measures include telecommuting, video conferencing in lieu of physical meetings, suspension of visits to bank buildings, and the cancellation of all travel, meetings, and conferences, until further notice.

Bank President Akinwumi Adesina made the announcements on Wednesday at the institution's headquarters in Abidjan. He stated that the measures were being taken in the best interest of public health and safety.

"My primary responsibility to you is to make sure you are safe, to make sure your families are safe, to make sure you can function where you are under the best possible conditions health and security wise," Adesina said.

## AfDB announces bold measures to prevent spread of coronavirus

Adesina said all efforts are being made to ensure continuity of the Bank's operations including electronic documentation and approvals.

All bank staff worked from home on Wednesday to test-run IT systems

"Please do not panic. Measures are being taken. The situation deserves that we change how we work and where we work from," Adesina said.

The Bank has already taken several other steps to counter an escalation of the virus, including a 14-day self-quarantine for employees returning from high-risk countries.

Other multilateral institutions in Asia, Europe, and Latin America have taken similar actions to prevent the spread of the virus.

Since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak in December 2019, the Bank

has closely monitored the situation through its medical center, emergency management team, and its operational and executive crisis committees.

Staffs have regularly been provided with medical guidance and preventive measures are in place to protect staff and families from contamination by the virus.

A three-level COVID-19 response plan has also been developed to avert, manage and mitigate the effect of the pandemic on bank's staff and their families, while ensuring business continuity in the event of an escalation of the situation on the continent.

The Bank's Board of Directors is reviewing the configuration and design of the bank's statutory annual meetings originally scheduled for May 26th to 29th, 2020 in Abidjan.



A security guard at The Guardian Limited's offices in Dar es Salaam subjects a would-be guest to mandatory handwashing using a sanitiser yesterday as a precaution against Covid-19 infections. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

(NBAA)

THE NATIONAL BOARD OF ACCOUNTANTS AND AUDITORS TANZANIA



### PUBLIC NOTICE

POSTPONMENT OF CONTINUED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD) EVENTS (MARCH- APRIL 2020)

The National Board of Accountants and Auditors (NBAA) wishes to inform all accountants, auditors and other interested parties that CPD Events (Seminars/workshops) which were to be conducted on **25th to 27th March 2020, 4th April 2020 and 15th to 17 April 2020** have been postponed following increased and overwhelming concerns about the outbreak of COVID-19 virus.

The Board will provide further guidance, when the outbreak will be contained, or as shall be directed by the Government.

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## Climate change symposium and exposition stalled amid coronavirus pandemic fears

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

THE 6th climate change symposium and expo that was expected to take place in Dar es Salaam with over 200 diverse actors attending has been postponed until further notice. The Symposium was supported by the European Union.

A press release by issued by FORUMCC said this is due to the 16th March 2020 news of the confirmed first case of Coronavirus in Tanzania and proposed measures to stop the spread of Coronavirus given by the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children.

The FORUMCC urge all Tanzanians, in particular vulnerable communities to climate change, women and youth to take protective measures against this new coronavirus.

"We are optimistic that by working together we will stay safe to achieve climate resilience and sustainable development. We will keep the good work going through online platforms, social media and other media engagements to promote increased ambition for emissions cut and the demand for urgent accountable climate action to secure our futures", said part of the press release.

Themed: "Science, Policy and Practice: Working together for Climate Resilience, Low Carbon pathway and Sustainable Development" the symposium aimed to encourage interactions between science, policy, practice and research communities, including local authorities, government departments, business and community groups as well as researchers and consultants.

It was to showcase initiatives that demonstrate how these groups can work together to co-produce knowledge, foster innovation and

solutions around climate change adaptation. It also covers synergies and trade-offs between adaptation and mitigation.

Tanzania is under Climate Emergency, like the rest of African countries. The climate emergency is becoming real as we experience instances of flooding, unpredictable rains, droughts, widespread crop failures, livestock deaths, sea level rise, salt water intrusion and intensification of climate sensitive diseases among others.

The impacts of climate change are overwhelming the people; affect all sectors of development, undermining efforts to achieve development and prosperity.

FORUMCC is a non-governmental organization providing a member-based platform for organisations in Tanzania and it works on climate change issues at three levels: local, national and international levels to ensure the contribution to the lasting solutions to the climate change vulnerability.



**We will keep the good work going through online platforms, social media and other media engagements to promote increased ambition for emissions cut and the demand for urgent accountable climate action to secure our futures**



A small trader waits for customers for her Irish potatoes at her kiosk at Kilombero market in Arusha city yesterday. She said the price has recently risen sharply, with ongoing rains in the southern highlands regions having led a drop in supply. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

## Alarm over coronavirus induces rise in bus fares

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

FOR two days running bus fares at Moshi bus station for passengers destined to other regions have shot up as bus owners and agents have been charging between 25,000/- and 35,000/- for those travelling to Dar es Salaam.

It is explained that the cause for this is the big number of primary, secondary and university students returning home following closure of their learning institutions due to Coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Yesterday this paper witnessed agents of various passenger buses destined to other regions especially Dar es Salaam demanding prospective travelers up to 35,000/- for a ticket.

Many travelers have complained of the high, unofficial, bus fares with some postponing their journeys, despite warning from the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) not to hike the fares above the approved official rates.

The Moshi central bus stand was congested with people seeking to travel but

many could not be able to do so due to the sudden fare hike.

Some passengers travelling to Dar es Salaam who talked to this paper said even though they were charged 35,000/- for the Dar es Salaam trip their tickets still reflected 25,000/- and called upon the relevant authorities to intervene as many people cannot afford the unofficial fares.

Another passenger, Issa Swai said: "I came here with 30,000/- only but I was told the fare is 35,000/- to Dar es Salaam, whether it is a Coaster bus or those bigger ones. People, especially those in the low income bracket are suffering. There are parents who have failed to send fares to their children at boarding schools, and I don't know what will befall those students if they come here to find the fares have gone up."

When this paper tried to contact the Acting LATRA Head for Kilimanjaro region Masoud Abdallah for clarification and comment, his mobile phone went unanswered despite repeated tries.

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

## Sea patrols helping in controlling illegal fishing on Tumbatu island

CONSISTENT patrols in Tumbatu Marine Conservation Area (TUMCA) in northern Zanzibar has largely contributed to control of illegal fishing activities as well as bringing hope to fishermen to reap more income.

The Head of patrols from the Zanzibar Department of Fisheries Development Haji Shomari, revealed this during patrols along the TUMCA Zone.

He said patrols have revived hopes for fishermen to reap more income due to big fish treasures after the waters around Tumbatu was last year incorporated into the new lists of Marine Reserves.

"The Department of Fisheries Development through South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance

(Swiofish) Project has greatly helped in the fight against illegal fishing and the protection of marine environment including corals," he said.

Some fishermen in TUMCA are pleased with the patrols whose aim is to prevent illegal fishing and protect marine resources.

Fishermen of Tumbatu Island in Northern Zanzibar will start the octopus harvests next month.

Swiofish Project is implemented under the sponsorship of World Bank and aims to protect marine resources and enable small fishermen to develop

themselves in the sector.

In January this year, President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein said it was unfortunate that Zanzibar, which is surrounded by the ocean, doesn't fish adequately.

Reports have it that Zanzibar marine resources have been benefiting foreigners who come and fish them clandestinely.

Dr Shein said the government was determined to develop the blue economy for the benefits of the islands' 1.5 million population.

The government has embarked on

sweeping measures to accelerate the country's economic growth through the ocean, he noted.

Dr Shein implored Zanzibaris to invest in fish farming, saying the government is determined to invest in improving environment for all wananchi to benefit with fish farming.

Zanzibar government has just established the Zanzibar Fishing Corporation (ZAFICO), procured new fishing boats and construction of Malindi fish landing and marketing facilities are already underway.

## Uganda runs out of sanitisers

KAMPALA

THE ministry of Health is urging all Ugandans to resort to making home handwashing solutions or using soap and water to wash hands as the country runs out of manufactured hand sanitizers.

The ministry made the call after several pharmacies in Kampala and supermarkets ran out of hand sanitizers due to high demand. In the few shops that still have it, the prices have more than tripled in price as Ugandans rush to procure whatever is left to protect themselves after the worldwide outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

Although Uganda has not yet recorded a single coronavirus case, her neighbours; Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, DR Congo, Congo Brazzaville, Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan have recorded cases.

Atek Kagirita, the coronavirus incident manager at the ministry of Health says that Ugandans should not be scared due to hand sanitizer shortages because there are other options that are as equally effective.

"In the worst-case scenario maybe if there is no soap, I would tell you use soap and water period. Just put there chlorine. Get 0.05% chlorine and put it there," said Kagirita.

According to the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention, to mix 20 litres of hand washing solution, one needs to add 14 tablespoons of 5 per cent bleaching solution or one tablespoon of calcium hypochlorite grain (chlorine) and wait for about thirty minutes before use.

Peter Matanda, the public relations manager at Saraya Manufacturing

Uganda Limited, a local producer of hand sanitizer located in Kakira says that they cannot produce enough hand sanitizers to meet the current demand in the country.

"As Saraya, we have been producing but we had the production for normal supply. Now everybody who is asking for a sanitizer has never done so before. Given the capacity we had, we have tried to triple efforts. We are working day and night at our production unit and we can't meet even a quarter of orders. Some of the orders we try to turn them down because the production capacity cannot meet the current orders," Matanda said.

Last year during the Ebola virus disease outbreak in neighbouring DR Congo, a one litre bottle of Saraya cost between Shs 30,000 and Shs 40,000. Currently, the same quantity if found goes for as high as Shs 160,000.

Pharmaceutical shops that URN visited are also crying foul because they do not have enough supply to meet the current demand. Swarna Garikapati, the branch manager of Abacus pharmacy on Johnstone street says that they are out of stock of the sanitizers since Friday last week and they haven't stocked yet because of lack of supplies.

Garikapati says that Abacus pharmacy does not produce sanitizers at their factory in Nakawa, they also import either from Kenya or India and the cost is high therefore they are trying to sell them at a price that's affordable to Ugandans.

She says that before the stock-out, a litre of sanitizer was between Shs 28,000 and Shs 30,000 and could not sell wholesale because they needed to supply everyone and could not take a chance of making a profit in such a situation.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), globally, the world is facing a Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) shortage due to many manufacturing countries like China stopping the exportation of equipment like gloves, goggles and facial masks.

Dr Michael Ryan, the executive director of the WHO health emergencies program says that the health agency is working towards availing necessary equipment to all countries in need. They are also talking to China to open its doors and allow the exportation of necessary equipment.



Small traders buy oranges from sub-wholesalers at Dar es Salaam's Buguruni mixed-foodstuffs market yesterday for retail in various parts of the city. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma



**In the worst-case scenario maybe if there is no soap, I would tell you use soap and water period. Just put there chlorine. Get 0.05% chlorine and put it there**





This is a section of the Ubungo interchange at the Morogoro Road/Mandela Road intersection in Dar es Salaam, as captured yesterday. The facility is still undergoing construction. Photo: Selemani Mpochi

By Guardian Correspondent, Misenyi

## Bashe orders Misenyi DC to support investors, promote agro-investments

DEPUTY Minister for Agriculture, Hussein Bashe has ordered Misenyi District Council to swiftly issue a certificate of land occupancy to an investor-Global Agency Limited who has invested in the agricultural sector.

Bashe, who was accompanied by members of the Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, and Water made the order here yesterday when he visited the Bucharago Village-based farm in the district.

The minister described the investment as big, meriting the government's support saying by giving him the certificate it will enable the investor to access loans, hence expand investment.

"The government is determined to provide a friendly environment for investors so that they operate smoothly for the benefit of our people and the country at large," he said, encouraging more investors to invest in the agricultural sector, which employs a large number of people in the country.

Global Agency Managing Director Fidelis Bashasha said that his firm has 7,000 hectares of land and the entire investment is at 250bn/-.

The company grows a wide range of crops—maize, soya beans, and rice, whereby in the first phase, the firm will sell the crops as raw materials and

afterward the crops will be processed and sold as final products.

According to Bashasha, at the moment experts of Agro vision, a company from USA are carrying out a feasibility study of creating a drainage system of removing unwanted water that destroys crops during rainy seasons.

He informed the parliamentary committee that a project will create over 600 employment opportunities for villagers around the farm which includes Mushasha, Burembo, Buchurago, Kilibilizi, Kabingo, and Bbugorora.

He, however, lauded the support from the Ministry of Finance, Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) and other players.

For his part, chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Water, Mohamoud Mgemwa commended the investor for his decision to invest in the sector.

Mgemwa expressed his satisfaction with the investment made by the investors, pledging that his committee will submit a proposal to the government to see the way of supporting the company.

## Latra ordered to come up with acceptable number of standing passengers in commuter buses

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

WORKS, Transport and Communications minister Isack Kamwelwe has directed the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) in collaboration with health experts to come up with the acceptable number of standing passengers in commuter buses and bus rapid transit (UDART), within three days.

In addition Kamwelwe, within the same period, directed LATRA to sit together with city and municipal councils to put in place a procedure to control congestion of people at bus stations for long distance journeys.

However, he said, the government was in the last stages in finalising electronic ticketing system that will reduce congestions at ticketing points.

Kamwelwe issued the directives here yesterday when he talked to reporters on steps supposed to be taken in regard to the public transportation services in protection against coronavirus infection.

Kamwelwe said it is better to take major precautionary measures in areas with crowds of people such as in commuter buses, rapid transport services, trains, ships, water ferries and at airports.

The minister said bus firms should look into having more ticket selling points in various areas to reduce congestion at bus stations.

"We advise passengers travelling to long distance destinations not to be escorted by many people," he said and called on bus owners and drivers and bus passengers to make sure they use hand sanitizers from time to time after coming into contact with various paperwork, money, tickets and luggages.

"I also ask drivers and conductors not to exceed the number of passengers supposed to be carried in their vehicles as per advice of health experts," he said.

On rail transport Kamwelwe directed

Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) and Tanzania-Zambia Railways Authority (TAZARA) to make sure they have hand sanitizers at stations and inside the trains as well as allocating special rooms for extra medical examination for those who will be suspected to have been infected with Coronavirus.

He also called upon Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) and Tanzania Airports Authority (TAA) to allocate similar rooms as well as hand sanitizers.

"I am directing LATRA, Tasac, TPA, TAA and TCAA to work together with health experts to prepare signboards and put in place procedures for educating people on how to protect themselves against the disease," he said.

On border closure, Kamwelwe ordered for strict control of people entering the country through unauthorized routes, and added that total border closure will come if the situation worsens.

Meanwhile, the inauguration of the building for Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) that was to be officiated by President John Magufuli has been postponed due to the Coronavirus disease.



**I am directing LATRA, Tasac, TPA, TAA and TCAA to work together with health experts to prepare signboards and put in place procedures for educating people on how to protect themselves against the disease**

By Guardian Reporter, Katavi

## TCCIA calls on traders not to hike prices of Covid-19 protective gear

THE Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (TCCIA) yesterday appealed to its members across the country including businesspersons to stop selling coronavirus protective equipment at hiked prices.

TCCIA President Paul Koyi made the plea during his tour in southern highland regions whereby among other schedules, he held talks with government officials and the chamber's members in the regions on various issues related to trade and investment.

Koyi's remarks come as response to recent stakeholders' complaints accusing business persons of increasing the prices of the equipment by between 30 and 50 percent since the disease was reported.

"On behalf of TCCIA board, first I would like to send my condolences to the victims of coronavirus who have been reported in the country. This disease is a big threat to economies around the world," said Koyi.

He however called upon business persons in the country to also make sure that they sell quality coronavirus protective equipment.

Reports of coronavirus outbreak in Tanzania was recently announced and confirmed by the Health Minister Ummu Mwalimu during a press conference in Dar es Salaam early this week.

The Minister said a Tanzania citizen who was diagnosed with the virus just returned in the country from Belgium via Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA) in Kilimanjaro region.

On Tuesday the government announced closure of all kindergarten, primary and secondary schools for a period of 30 days, with Form Six students who were to sit for their examinations starting May 4 having to wait for other directives from the ministry on the basis of the developing

situation.

In a televised address, Premier Kassim Majaliwa said all unnecessary indoor and open gatherings are suspended including sports, music festivals, politics, graduation ceremonies, wedding parties, etc.

Ministries and other institutions were directed to suspend workshops, conferences, seminars and all other meetings that involve foreign participants.

"Tanzanians who planned unnecessary trips to countries with big coronavirus infection rate are advised to cancel such trips," he said.

Moreover, the latest reports availed by the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa suggest that the number of coronavirus cases in Tanzania has increased to three after other two cases were recently reported in Arusha and Zanzibar, both foreign nationals.



Residents of Mirerani township in Simanjiro District, Manyara Region, search for fish on the side of Kairo-Zaire road. The floodwaters are attributed to the overflowing of the nearby Lake Kidawash. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY  
ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED



PUBLIC NOTICE

### CHANGES IN THE TCRA ICT AWARDS 2020 PROCESS

The Management of the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) informs the general public and all communications stakeholders that the TCRA ICT awards 2020 ceremony earlier planned for 15th May, 2020 during the commemoration of the World Telecommunication and Information Society (WTIS) Day 2020 has been postponed due to the current safety measures introduced against the novel corona virus (COVID 19).

The event, the first of its kind in Tanzania was expected to attract more than 350 local and international participants; at a time when many countries have introduced restrictions on foreign travel as part of precautions against the spread of COVID 19.

Subsequently in view of the recent Government directives on the virus, TCRA has decided to defer the TCRA Awards 2020 ceremony to a later date subject to Government directives.

We would like to emphasize that the process of nominating the best service providers for the TCRA ICT Awards 2020 will continue as we monitor the status of COVID 19 and directives from authorities.

TCRA has set a new deadline for the submission of entry forms for the awards by service providers who failed to meet the earlier deadline. They have been given the opportunity to submit between 23rd March and 24th April, 2020 using the awards dedicated website: [www.ictawards.tcra.go.tz](http://www.ictawards.tcra.go.tz).

TCRA is mandated to require service providers to implement the Authority's directives; hence the non participation of any service provider in this competition amounts to a breach of licence conditions; and a denial of consumer rights.

Service Providers who do not participate in the awards by being non-compliant to submitting entry forms breach the TCRA Two factors underlie the mandatory participation: -

- As an ISO 9001:2015 certified institution, TCRA is duty bound to enforce service delivery standards and the TCRA ICT Awards are part of the evaluation;
- The public and consumers deserve the right to evaluate the levels and standards of services against their expectations.

The TCRA Management takes this opportunity to thank all communications services providers who have duly submitted their entry forms for the TCRA ICT Awards 2020. Their participation is indicative of their readiness to be evaluated and are confident with the standards of services they provide.

TCRA will continue managing the ICT Awards with excellence, professionalism and transparency to ensure that the most deserving service providers with a notable contribution to the development of ICTs in the country are recognized and awarded. Additionally, we believe that the Awards process will motivate service providers to improve their services with the final objective of improving the communications sector so that it fully contributes to the digital economy and industrialization in Tanzania.

Issued by:  
Director General,  
Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA),  
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## Curbing of coronavirus infections demands more than hand washing

CONTAINING the spread of the coronavirus pandemic is an urgent matter for the whole of humankind, with some countries having witnessed tragically high infection levels early, others being hit later and yet others not yet there but with no assurance of being spared.

As of mid-Wednesday, the World Health Organisation was talking of infections in more than 150 countries and self-governing territories, implying that the pandemic is now a truly worldwide phenomenon.

There were differences in the scale at which the disease was spreading but these were not of the sort to cheer up in the hope that some may escape it. Often, it is a question of when the first case strikes or contacts begin, etc.

Judging by what is happening in Europe and elsewhere, public authorities have made efforts to use disinfectants not just on doorsteps or in queuing up for some services but even in open spaces.

The reason for fumigating open spaces - not to speak of offices, where it isn't possible to work from home - is that the coronavirus is devastating because it survives in the air on its own for a few minutes, some experts saying it can dwell unattached in the air for up to eight minutes, in the cold. This aspect about coronavirus metabolism gives African countries the hope that its effect won't be as devastating as it won't get the propitious atmosphere of its being propagated by breathing where social contacts are unavoidable - for instance, in public transport.

When the virus is unattached and exposed to warm to hot weather, it more or less quickly melts, in which case the fact that Africa enjoys a generally warm climate said to be injurious to the fat coating of the virus is an aspect of hope. But while this is ascertained by

scientific analyses, much more care ought to be taken. Face masks and disinfectants are helpful, as is cutting down on social groupings, but not enough has been said about disinfectants in the air.

The washing of hands takes care of 'viral dirt' that one may already have on the hand and is a definitely useful precaution. Still, the most dangerous source of coronavirus infection is the air, when an infected person spreads contaminated air.

This is to say the preventive measures that are excellent for cholera and tuberculosis ought to be improved upon, as they may not be adequate or intense enough for a more insidious pandemic.

That is where innovation is needed because masks are helpful but aren't airtight and therefore do not prevent air from moving around.

Masks help with the likes of odors and dust but not exactly with air, though they can prevent infection when the concentration of contaminated air is low and is thus filtered out in the air that the person with a mask shall breathe in or breathe out.

Therefore, it is also vital where possible, and especially for indoor social interaction like offices and even some gatherings which have not been proscribed, for spraying or fumigation to take place regularly.

Some disinfectants are admittedly too powerful for people to work alongside with and could therefore advisedly be applied at intervals, while softer ones can be routine.

The bottom line, though, is that these are generally affordable interventions easy to implement and can make a huge difference without people having to dig all that deep into their pockets to keep the risk of coronavirus and other infections at bay.

## Govt reaction to COVID-19 spread laudable, but public awareness, support more decisive

THE recently announced partial halting of public activities took a new turn at midweek with the discovery of two new cases of coronavirus infection - in Zanzibar and Dar es Salaam.

This prompted the Prime Minister's Office to extend - by 30 days - closure of schools to higher learning institutions, which were on semester or term holidays.

Students already at home for the vacations would not be reporting back during the observation month, while those still on campus would be sent back.

Interestingly, the government hesitated to bring back students in China when the pandemic broke out there, but directed those at home not to go back. The government had earlier closed kindergarten, primary and secondary schools alongside imposing restrictions on gatherings and travel as health and other authorities put in place containment measures.

The PMO noted that the two positive cases involved foreigners, with the Tanzanian lady "detected" in Arusha a day or two earlier having been in a foreign country where she contracted the virus.

At least two African countries reported cases earlier but no widespread infections ensued, and Rwanda has now reported at least seven cases. They may all have come from abroad lately.

Apart from the Tanzanian lady, who arrived back from Belgium via Kilimanjaro International Airport and was being isolated in Arusha, a German national aged 24 now in Zanzibar tested positive, the other being an American aged 61 and now in Dar es Salaam.

The three have distinctive age categories - one youthful at 24 years and likely to heal quickly, the lady aged 46 and also likely to heal because intervention started early, while more care was needed with regard to the 61-year-old visitor.

Experts say the more the body is

weak or is burdened by cases such as hypertension, the more it becomes difficult to handle a corona infection. At least, that is what countries which have battled coronavirus for more than a month now have been saying.

As with other instances involving cancelled public activities, students at teachers' training colleges were supposed to sit their examinations in early May.

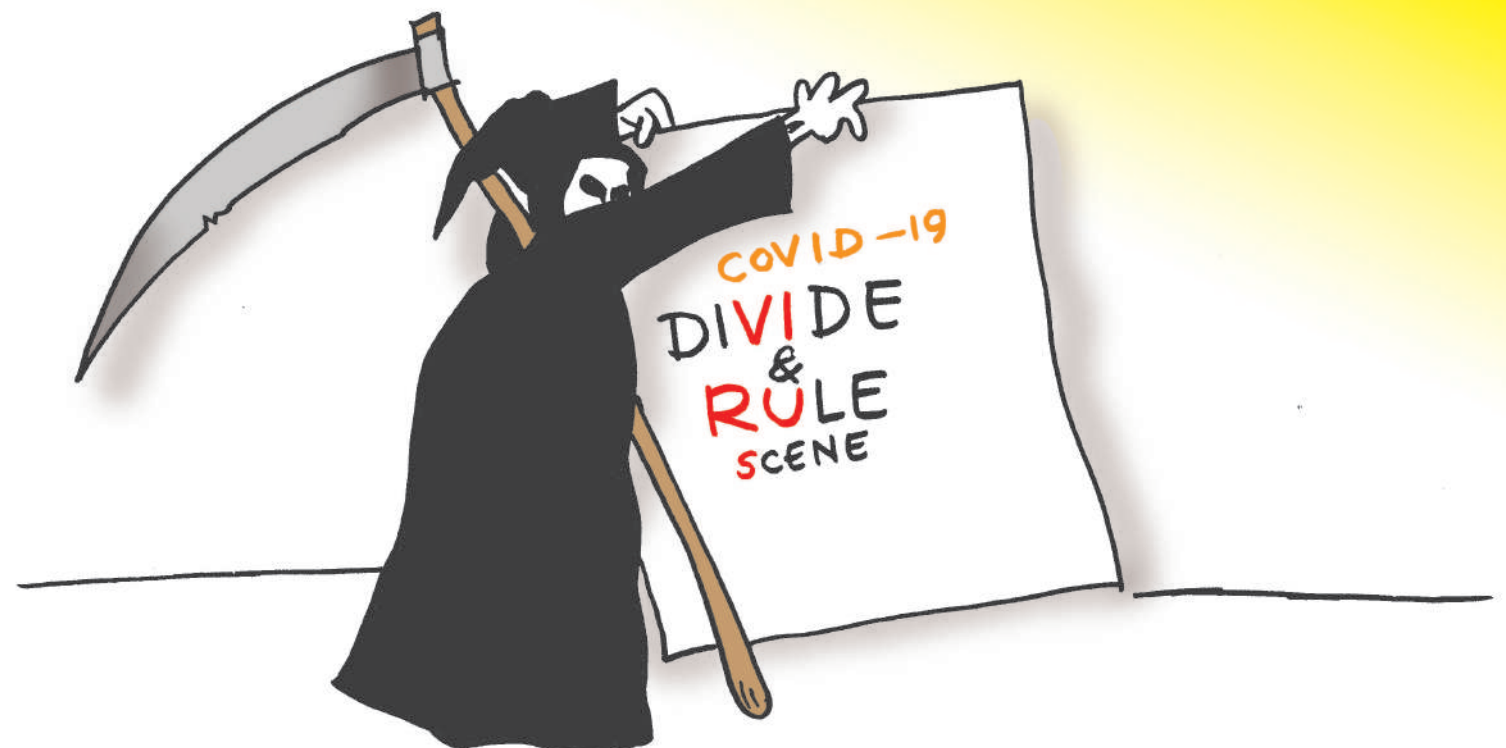
It will be up to the Education, Science and Technology ministry to make urgent amendments to examination timetables when the corona pandemic subsides. The one month should be an observation period, not a predetermined corona lapse.

Otherwise, the PMO statement urged the public to continue with their routine activities and remain vigilant but calm as the government continues to assess the situation and release relevant updates "when and as necessary". Unlike countries where the coronavirus outbreak has had a huge toll on public life, services provided by shops, markets and transportation in Tanzania are expected to go on pretty much as usual.

Many sectors are likely to suffer in the wake of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreaks in that the halting of some indoor and open gatherings and the suspension of events like competitive sports, music festivals, politics, graduation ceremonies and wedding parties will surely hit extensive sections of the public.

Similarly, ministries and other public institutions are under instruction to suspend workshops, conferences, seminars and all other meetings involving foreign participants. Indeed, even if foreign visitors aren't expected, much of the lockdown will be felt in that quarter as well.

Considered together, these measures mean that the COVID-19 pandemic we are talking about calls for extremely careful handling if it is not to explode into a catastrophe. We all had better appreciate this fact - and move accordingly.



# UN inaugurates website to boost global awareness on coronavirus

By Stella Vuzo

THE United Nations Department of Global Communications on Wednesday put in place a new website specifically meant to inform people across the world about the coronavirus disease, also known as COVID-19.

The website, which is found at the link <https://www.un.org/coronavirus>, has come at a time when the coronavirus outbreak is spreading to more and more countries - in the process drawing solidarity among people everywhere.

The United Nations continues to help countries counter the outbreak and protect the most vulnerable members of communities across the globe.

The World Health Organisation is leading the UN family globally in terms of global supply of technical and material support. In Tanzania it has extended to the testing kits to national laboratories as well as training to laboratory technicians.

WHO has dispatched personal protective equipment for use by health workers as well as thermometers and other essential supplies for screening and handling suspect cases at airports and other points of entry.

As WHO leads the UN family in addressing this health crisis, the website chiefly highlights the efforts being made by several other UN agencies worldwide in response to the epidemic. The website offers guidance to both the public and to UN family staff members to help them mitigate the spread of COVID-19 as well as access vital reference documents.

The website is also linked to the various UN social media platforms, including twitter and UN multimedia, where new information and prevention information is being rolled out. The UN website informs describes coronaviruses (CoV) as "a large family of viruses that cause illness, ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases".

A very important feature of the newly set up website is that it has a section with 28 frequently asked questions (FAQ) from the public, ten or so of which are specific to UN staff members.

The UN has used its convening power to bring together questions frequently asked around the world about this

novel virus - while coming up with professional responses. Thanks to that, people from all over the world can now have their questions responded to professionally, complete with clear facts and information.

During crises like the one the world is witnessing, there is a tendency to see a rise in the amount of fake news and hearsay. The increase in citizen journalism also affects what the truth is, as plenty of information floats around during crises and threatening to mislead the public.

One of the most frequently asked questions is: How likely am I to catch the coronavirus?

In response, the UN website notes: "The risk depends on where you are - and, more specifically, whether there is a COVID-19 outbreak unfolding there."

"For most people in most locations, the risk of catching COVID-19 is still low. However, there are now places around the world, be it cities or other areas, where the disease is spreading. For people living in - or visiting - these areas, the risk of catching COVID-19 is higher than it would be elsewhere."

"Governments and health authorities take vigorous action every time a new case of COVID-19 is identified. Be sure to comply with any local restrictions on travel, movement or large gatherings. Cooperating with disease control efforts will reduce your risk of catching or spreading COVID-19."

There is further information: "COVID-19 outbreaks can be contained and transmission stopped, as has been shown in China and some other countries. Unfortunately, new outbreaks can emerge rapidly."

The platform also links to all the efforts being undertaken by UN bodies to address the situation. For instance, the WHO publishes daily updates on the corona virus situation across the globe. You can see these at <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/>.

The UN website also provides guidance and support to healthcare workers, particularly within in the world body itself, this including how to conduct global surveillance for human infection with the virus, classifications of who is suspect, probable or a confirmed case.

Several UN meetings have been cancelled or rescheduled. One was for the Commission on the Status

of Women, which was to be held in New York and to have attracted representatives of all UN member states.

Furthermore, the website provides information and guidance about all other UN global meetings that have been cancelled/ postponed or have had to be held online.

The coronavirus epidemic is forcing humanity think again about the wisdom of using technology to do business, as opposed to having physical meetings. This may also help in sparing the global environment the catastrophic impact of climate change through air pollution partly induced by flights.

The Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change has estimated that aviation is responsible for around 3.5 per cent of anthropogenic climate change, the figure including effects induced and not induced by carbon dioxide.

With many flights are being cancelled and airlines are losing out on business lowering to the spread of the COVID-19, the UN's International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) is coordinating efforts on the development of specific guidelines primarily to ensure appropriate planning and action at all levels to mitigate the impact of the pandemic.

Parents and governments across the world would be happy seeing children continuing with studies - in school. But Tanzania, Japan, Kenya and many other countries have closed down all manner of schools, colleges and universities as a precaution against the spread of the pandemic.

UNESCO is meanwhile providing immediate support to countries as they work to minimise the disruption in school and college calendars and facilitate the continuity of learning, especially for the most vulnerable.

For its part, the World Bank is fast-tracking financing to the countries as well as providing policy assistance - as the International Monetary Fund chips in with emergency funding.

Meanwhile, in that the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) has a crucial mandate with refugees, the website has an interesting link to an article published in the Telegraph (of the UK).

The article has UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet and UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo

Grandi declaring: "Our response to this epidemic must encompass - and in fact, focus on - those whom society often neglects." The website is linked to more resources found simply by clicking the links below each segment.

The UN Population Fund link also carries an article on how it is working to ensure that accurate information is provided to women of reproductive age and pregnant women on infection precautions, potential risks and how to seek timely medical attention.

UNICEF has regularly shared new and other crucial information with children, parents and their teachers on COVID-19 as it unravels - and the link is also shown on the newly established UN website.

There is also a thought-provoking link on how the UN World Tourism Organisation has been guiding the tourism sector's response on several levels. This is especially because the tourism sector, like any other economic activity with social impact, is based on interaction among people and has therefore been drastically affected.

Tourism is depended upon for income generation in many parts of the world and lower world travels translates to country economies being largely affected by coronavirus infections.

The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is monitoring the impact of the pandemic on manufacturing, trade, foreign direct investment and economic growth. It is noted that traders are travelling less, stock markets are plunging and the effect of the virus on trade and economies is evident.

Peacekeeping missions in Democratic Republic of Congo, Darfur, Syria, Central Africa and various other trouble spots are also putting in place a series of mitigation measures to promote the safety, security and health of UN personnel while maintaining continuity of operations.

All these institutions have links on the website <https://www.un.org/coronavirus>, which one would have to visit to get informed about what the UN family is doing to put the spread of the much-dreaded COVID-19 in check.

• **Stella Vuzo is Public Information Officer with the UN Information Centre in Dar es Salaam. For feedback, contact: vuzo@un.org.**



# There will be life after Covid-19

By Ismail Lagardien

**C**ovid-19 has kept most of us who write for a living, occupied. We're rapidly running out of things to write, beyond new infections, deaths, governments' responses, lockdowns, quarantines and so forth. If you follow Twitter, you may be astounded by racial scapegoating either for spreading the virus or for stockpiling food and other supplies. Or you may remain injured to it all.

My own, very personal view, is that we have to abandon religious practices, traditional healers and snake oil peddlers. We have to listen to the scientists, not religious leaders. Prayer will not get rid of Covid-19. Nor will homeopathy. Already in South East Asia, specifically Malaysia, a group of 15,000 Muslims (Jemaah Tabligh), met for prayer and a 30,000-strong group of Hindus met for a festival, causing mass infection scares. We're still not sure whether the annual Zion Christian Church (ZCC) will hold its annual gatherings and Easter services, which attracts about 4-million churchgoers annually. This, unfortunately, is what we are left with, reporting on symptoms, events, cases and states of affairs, shortcomings, and the way that Donald Trump is oppressed by reality and by his own ignorance.

During one of the (very few) times that I am able to think deeply, I wonder what the world will be like when we emerge from this pandemic in, say, two or three years from now. Let us look at the facts, first (at noon on Tuesday 17 March). The World Health Organisation reports the following: "There are 167,511 confirmed (13,903 new) global infections, 6,606 deaths (862 new). China has confirmed 81,077 infections

(29 new), with 3,218 deaths (14 new). Outside of China, there are 86,434 confirmed cases (13,874 new), and 3,388 deaths (848 new), in 150 countries/territories/areas (four new)." Those numbers do my head in. These deaths, the way I see it, are not an economic crisis. It's a human crisis.

It's not the economy, stupid, it's the people

Now let us look at some of the interpretations. In the US, CNBC has reported that "the ongoing spread of the new coronavirus has become one of the biggest threats to the global economy and financial markets". Not to be left behind in the economics rationalist race, Foreign Policy magazine, that most reliable of US exceptionalist bluster and braggadocio, was blunter. Covid-19 is "An Economic Pandemic". This is not to say that the \$50-billion that has been wiped off global exports in February 2020 is a small matter.

For one (for the sake of argument), the hospitality industry will probably be the first casualty because of the immediacy and necessity (for now), of human contact. But already you can make reservations for flights and accommodation online - all you would need is a work station to check into your hotel and a key card issued by a machine. Do we really think that there will be a return to employing people when machines can do their jobs? It's hard to imagine.

Nonetheless, obsession with an "economic" pandemic, when people are dying by the thousand, matters only to homo economicus (economic man) - ignore humanity, or if you're not human at all, or you believe that "the economy" or "markets" are "objective realities" that do not include people.



The point here is that a greater effort is required to prevent infection of people. To the extent that there is an "invisible hand" - and there are humans on Earth after this thing blows over - the world should return to something. But what might that something look like?

To get some sense of what that something would look like (bearing in mind that this is all based on speculation, imagination, historical evidence, patterns, trends and a helluva load of guesswork), we can look at how Covid-19 has already changed patterns of production, distribution and consumption.

Life after Covid-19

Loath as I am to make predictions, I can confidently say that there will be life after Covid-19 has been contained and defeated. I cutely avoided saying there would be life "on Earth" leaving, always, room for the idea that there might be life in

any number of places in our observable universe (which is about 93-billion light-years in diameter, and it is only supreme arrogance that may cause us to think we are alone in the universe).

But seriously, we can expect patterns of production, distribution and consumption to be completely different from what they were before the end of 2019. The virus has already disrupted production and distribution chains, and displaced thousands of people - or simply killed them.

Because of existing technology, and any of the innovations currently underway to cope with communities in quarantine, more people are working remotely (from home), which, we can be sure, will hasten the (further) development of internet technology. This could eliminate physical workspaces, which could be transformed into something else.

The same can be said of public transport. With fewer people having to go into the office, transportation networks may change. We could also see an increase, and more normalisation of drone technology to deliver

food and medicines.

As it goes, delivery services, like Amazon, have seen significant increases in home deliveries. In the US, United Parcel Service, that does most of Amazon's deliveries, is on a drive to recruit 100,000 new staff. But once Covid-19 is beaten, will these drivers still have jobs? It's hard to say. It is hard to imagine people discontinuing online shopping and only slightly more difficult to imagine deliveries made by drones being scaled down.

All of this, I dare say, may encourage increased robotics design and application, which will eliminate jobs. It's not terribly outlandish to claim that very many people who are currently working remotely can be expected to continue doing so after the virus is beaten.

Robotics and Information and Communications Technology in general, will not be invented, after whatever has been achieved to deal with the current (virtual) elimination of human contact. And so, even your pizza delivery driver may be without a job, once drones are used for deliv-

ery. Human capacity for disease - especially communicable disease - will be mitigated by hastening robotics on assembly lines (production), drones and non-human contact could eliminate distribution (as we have known it). To use a terribly clichéd example (sorry about this), email has eliminated very many postal delivery jobs, and post offices have re-imagined their historical roles.

Also, I get paid for some of what I write electronically, and payment shows up on my phone. I then pay my bills, also by phone. I don't need any human contact for any of these transactions. Now compare this with the time, three decades ago, when we would receive salaries by cheque (before direct deposits), which we had to deposit (at a bank teller), and then make out several cheques to pay bills and place them in the mail. Much of this required human interaction.

While all of these changes were before Covid-19, imagine the ways we are finding to avoid human contact using technology. There are restaurants in Asia that have stopped allowing sit-in customers and that do only home deliveries.

Even before Covid-19, there were people who did their shopping online and ordered their food (to be delivered by a stranger, whom they barely spoke to). Could that be the future? Probably.

Do we really think that we will uninvited online teaching, or online prayer service (as when the Pope delivered Sunday Service by livestream)? Doubtful, at best. Bars, cinemas, gyms and sporting events around most of the world have been shut or stopped, which caused a spike in people seeking entertainment at home. Now that it is already a part of our lives, beyond the virus, and it could become vital to all interactions between people, places and productivity.

It's all up in the air at the moment. The science and technology that goes into new means of production, distribution and consumption is exciting. There will be a world after Covid-19. Right now, all we can say, with confidence, is that technological advances will probably change the way we live, work and play in ways that are unimaginable.

What about love? Well, there is always Jo!

## Africa's youth bulge alone won't deliver economic growth

BY PETER FABRICIUS

**T**HE belief that Africa's burgeoning population - set to rise from 1.3 billion to two billion by 2040 - is a boon runs deep on the continent. It's the premise of the African Union's (AU) various youth development programmes, as Jakkie Cilliers points out in his just-published book *Africa First! Igniting a Growth Revolution*.

These programmes assume that Africa's large youth bulge will ensure fast economic growth by itself. But then why has Africa's burgeoning population not already translated into rapid growth, he asks. The answer, Cilliers bluntly told AU staff in October 2018, was that their plans missed the point.

Africa's high fertility rates were a serious constraint on development and until the continent significantly lowered them, it wouldn't be able to economically grow quickly enough to reduce poverty and improve livelihoods. Some Addis Ababa-based diplomats, he writes, objected strongly to this 'attempt at stigmatising motherhood and apparently, children.'

Trying to make Africa's demographics a dividend rather than a liability is one of the central aims of this book. It asks why Africa continues to slip increasingly further behind global averages of well-being and what should be done about it. 'Extreme poverty is declining globally, except in Africa,' Cilliers notes.

The continent is improving on some health measures of well-being like infant and maternal mortality, but on others, such as education, the gap is as large as it was four or five decades ago. He also forecasts that African poverty will decline only slightly as a percentage of population but will rise in absolute numbers.

And he predicts the continent will miss the headline goal of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - eliminating extreme poverty - by a large margin, unless it at least quadruples its average economic growth rates.



*Africa First!* aims to explain why Africa is in this sorry state, forecasts where it might be in 2040, and suggests how to reach a better outcome.

It isn't population numbers that change income growth but the ratio of working-age people to dependants

Cilliers writes that some African governments confuse a growing population (that generally results in a larger economy) with per capita income growth. It isn't sheer population numbers that will change income growth but the ratio of the working-age population to that of dependants - children up to age 15 and the elderly, aged over 64.

In youthful Africa, just 56% of the population is of working age, which translates to about 1.3 people of working age supporting every dependant (mostly youth) - versus a global average

of two workers to every dependant.

'The difference of 0.7 is extraordinarily significant given the large numbers involved,' Cilliers says. The annual addition of millions of children also means that governments have to spend much more on education, health and infrastructure just to cope with the larger numbers, but they are unable to improve the quality of services for those already in the system.

The World Bank has attributed one third of East Asia's growth during its economic miracle to a growing labour force as a portion of the total population. Cilliers adds that the high economic growth of the United States and the Nordic countries over many decades is also largely due to their high ratios of workers to dependants that have lasted for several generations.

A high ratio of working-age people can

translate into a 'demographic dividend' for a country. Cilliers says the higher the peak of the demographic dividend and the longer a country stays within the demographic dividend window of more than 1.7 working-age people to dependants, the better.

Instead of being a blessing, Africa's youth bulge could lead to increased risk of conflict and violence

He says on current trends, Africa's young population will consistently be a drag on economic growth until the continent's ratio of working-age population to dependants has risen to 1.7. That will occur only around 2054 when 'it will enter a window of particularly rapid income growth ... that will last for two decades.'

Thereafter the ratio of working-age people to dependants will continue to increase, peaking at around two people of working age to every dependant - i.e.

about 66% of a population that will then be an estimated 3.2 billion - around 2074, before declining, as Africa's population ages.

No one can predict the future, but 'none of this is good news for a continent that aspires to catch up with global income averages,' Cilliers says. So instead of being a blessing, Africa's youth bulge could - unless managed - be a curse, leading to increased risk of conflict and criminal violence.

Tackling that large youth bulge requires addressing, among other factors, the high fertility rates across Africa. These vary significantly, with lower rates for richer countries, though averaging 4.8 children per woman for sub-Saharan Africa as a whole, versus the global average of 2.4. 'Lower child mortality rates, higher incomes, the education of women and the availability of

contraception all reduce fertility rates,' Cilliers writes.

Reducing Africa's fertility rates demands, among others, better education for women as this gives them more job opportunities and less inclination to have large families as they will be better informed about modern contraceptives.

The availability of contraceptives is a more immediate driver of total fertility rates than education

However Cilliers has found that the availability of modern contraceptives is a more immediate driver of total fertility rates than education. So an ambitious roll-out of modern contraceptives would be the most impactful intervention in improving Africa's demographic dividend.

The second would be a modest reduction in child and adult female mortality rates from communicable diseases in health systems better equipped for family planning. Underpinning all of this is the empowerment of women.

The effects of these interventions would be significant - dropping maternal and infant mortality rates and the average fertility rate to 2.2 children per woman by 2050, versus about three children by 2050 on current expectations. Meanwhile Africa's total population would only grow to 2.8 billion by the end of the century versus a current forecast of 3.7 billion.

Africa's overall economy would grow more rapidly and despite its smaller population, per capita income would increase by US\$510 by 2050. And the number of Africans living in extreme poverty would be 24 million fewer in 2030 and 129 million fewer in 2050. Africa would also narrow the gap between itself and the rest of the world on composite indicators such as the Human Development Index.

Cilliers concludes that, 'All these interventions to unlock Africa's human capital will require governments, especially those in low-income and lower-middle-income countries, to make family planning a high priority on their developmental agenda.' For many African countries though, that could be a large political challenge.

Agencies



# Tackling gender-based violence and femicide in South Africa

By Jennifer Smout

A well-planned and coordinated response to gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) in South Africa is vital to changing the country's development path. Yet, the most recent measures put in place and the initial bodies established to be the custodians of the response do not instill confidence.

In the GBVF summit declaration, the Interim Steering Committee on GBVF (ISC) was established to implement actions listed in the summit declaration and establish a permanent structure on GBVF by the end of October 2019. Last week the Cabinet passed the NSP which includes a draft council structure - with neither of these documents having been made public as yet.

But over the past two weeks, three media statements have raised issues that will have an impact on this permanent body. At the heart of these questions is the meaning of accountability and representation in multisectoral structures.

The ISC has been operating since November 2018. From the outside, it's hard to see what the ISC is doing and what they have achieved in the last 15 months. The ISC reports weekly to the president, not the public, and they do not have a website where the public can access information about their progress.

Occasional media statements through GCIS don't always give a sense of whether the multisectoral body is operating in a democratic or participatory way, whether the representation of civil society is meaningful, or of the extent to which the government is taking their suggestions on board.

The ISC includes representation from the government, the donor community and civil society. The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) also sits on the ISC, but in a monitoring role, one that they have struggled to fulfill, but not through lack of effort on their part.

There are already concerns about the financial transparency and accountability in the management of the GBVF fund. In addition, the questions of to whom the ISC accounts and whom it claims to represent were raised by three media statements released in the past two weeks.

Statement One: The Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and People with Disabilities

In Parliament last week, the CGE reported to the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities that it had attempted to monitor the work of the ISC, as it is legally empowered to do in terms of the CGE Act and the Constitution. In terms of the CGE, the Constitution (Section 18) states that "other organs of state, through legislative and other measures, must assist and protect these institutions to ensure ... the effectiveness of these institutions" and "no person or organ of state may interfere with the functioning of these institutions".

Yet, the CGE reported to Parliament on March 3, 2020 that the leadership of the ISC had in fact done just that - prevented them from performing their legal function of monitoring issues that affect gender equality, specifically progress on the GBV Summit Declaration.

The CGE reported that despite having monitored the previous GBV council without difficulty, in this case the co-chair of the ISC had prevented their researchers from participating in the meetings of the ISC, demanding a review of their methodology and making it difficult for them to attend.

Subsequently, other members of the ISC who had initially agreed to be interviewed by CGE researchers withdrew this agreement.

The CEO of the CGE, Keketso Maema, reported that her office had written several letters to the co-chair to clarify that they wished to continue their research and should be allowed to do so, but they had not been successful.

The CGE then wrote to the DG in the Presidency, Dr Cassius Lubisi, to indicate their dissatisfaction and, as their parliamentary presentation made clear, "the fact that there is obstruction as far as our work as an independent institution is concerned".

Parliament itself had had its own challenges in getting the ISC to account. In November 2019, Parliament called a joint meeting of 10 committees to receive information about the progress of the ISC, in particular the development of the National Strategic Plan.

A meeting of so many committees is a large feat to organise in a parliamentary calendar, and many in the GBV sector were encouraged by the effort. Yet, the ISC did not bring the documents it had been asked to bring, chief among them the NSP that is set to define the country's response to GBV for the next decade.

In the discussion of the CGE's presentation last week, the chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Nonhlanhla Ndaba, revealed that a further invitation had been extended to the ISC to present to Parliament, but the ISC had declined, saying that they only report to the President.

It is worth reflecting on Parliament's powers to get information for a moment. Section 56 of the Constitution states that: "The National Assembly or any of its committees may - (a) summon any person to appear before it to give evidence on oath or affirmation, or to produce documents; (b) require any person or institution to report to it.

If that fails, the same section also gives Parliament the power to compel a person or institution to comply with this summons by law, and receive petitions or representations from any interested persons. Thus, regardless of who the ISC ordinarily reports to, Parliament has a constitutional right to summon them to give information in Parliament. It also has the power to invite others to that meeting to give information.

Following the presentation from the CGE and the discussion that followed on March 3, Ndaba released a statement on March 4 on behalf of the committee, indicating concern around the way the ISC had behaved in relation to the CGE, and in terms of their failure to account to Parliament.

Statement Two: The #TheTotalShutdown

On 5 March, in support of the statement released by Parliament, #TheTotalShutdown (TTS) released their own media statement about the ISC via their Facebook page. In the statement, the TTS report that they faced struggles in getting information from those who are on the ISC represent-



Protesters march against gender-based violence, organised by several NGOs and organisations at the JSE in Sandton on 13 September 2019 in Sandton. File photo

ing TTS, and indicated that their reps on the ISC no longer represent them.

Their statement says: "We would like to officially state that there is no representative from the #TheTotalShutdown Movement in the ISC. We did not nominate or agree as a movement to have these former national members represent us in the ISC. Rather, as #TTS was initiated by young black feminist activists, our main goal and thus ongoing struggle was intersectionality. Ultimately we raised concerns about the lack of representation on the ISC and what appeared to be gatekeeping of access to spaces, information, and decisions made. These problems need urgent attention."

TTS spokesperson Lesley Ncube indicated that despite several attempts by the TTS National Team to get information since the ISC was established, the information had not been shared by Brenda Madumise (ISC co-chair), Onica Makwakwa and Sibongile Mthembu (ISC Secretariat), all of whom were former TTS National Structure leaders. The TTS's calls for accountability had been ignored. For Ncube, the breakdown in communication had put those in the TTS National Structure in a difficult position.

"Members were saying: 'If we're represented on this structure, how come we don't know anything about what they're doing there? We as the national team didn't have answers for them. There were emails sent and not replied to, phone calls where answers to our questions were avoided, and WhatsApp groups where we'd ask a question and they [the ISC reps] would just exit. It left us with the question - 'you have a seat at the table - why aren't you bringing us along?' You can't just have representation for photo optics."

But, I suggested, a similar point could be made about getting information about the TTS itself - the website was closed down last year, and it is now difficult to see who is leading the movement.

Ncube agreed, but explained: "That's not because we have something to hide. It's just because the young black women who are leading the movement now didn't initially have the resources to go on paying for the domain. We now are working on getting a team together to get the website back up and running. So we use Facebook and WhatsApp to communicate because it is more affordable. You need resources to fund the fight."

In the absence of an ISC website that is open to the public, civil society has relied on those in the ISC to share the information they have received in these meetings. Information sharing has not always been successful, and this is not a matter exclusive to the TTS.

But for the TTS, trying to hold the

ISC to account was made more difficult by the culture of public shaming that emerged when questions were asked. In a public Facebook video that followed the acceptance of five BMWs by the ISC in 2020, Makwakwa and Madumise responded to questions about the way they were working, disparaging those who asked questions, suggesting that before they were criticised for "taking over", other members should do the work. This was a message that, Ncube suggests, became a way for them to resist criticism.

"They are not bringing the young woman along, or trying to be intersectional or inclusive at all. They are positioning themselves as the only ones who were really 'working' on this issue and dismissing the work that we are doing on the ground. What does 'doing the work' mean? It's not just being seen with the president. We didn't even know that they were starting the Wise Collective - we thought they were there for the TTS."

Now, it should be stated that many of the representatives on the ISC are representing multiple interests - they were chosen by the GBVF summit team based on their connections to networks, so they are not only there with their own organisations' interests at heart, but also many broader groups. But, if representatives were chosen based on their connection to networks, and that connection no longer exists, it poses the question of who the former TTS members are claiming to represent.

In July 2019, Mthembu, Makwakwa, and Madumise registered an NPO that they now run called the Wise Collective, an advocacy and social enterprise focused on bringing "innovative solutions to the market that will prevent and address challenges in advancing women's safety from gender-based violence and overall oppression from patriarchy". On their "About" page they describe themselves as "a strategic power broker".

To clarify the issue of representation, I approached co-chair of the ISC, Brenda Madumise, for comment on the TTS statement on Monday 9 March. She responded via SMS - "And the movement is supposed to be represented by who, if I am ask (sic)?" I indicated that since I was speaking with the TTS spokesperson, I would be interested in hearing both sides of the story.

Her reply: "Who is TTS? Those who wrote the statement must give you proof that they are TTS."

My request for information from her on whom she believed to be the correct person to speak to, and whether she would like to give a response went unanswered.

However, by that evening, Makwakwa - whom I had not yet contacted at all for comment - had used the same

threat of "writing about me" that the government co-chair, Olive Shisana had the week before, attempting to paint me as the problem on her public Facebook page, and on Tuesday in a second post suggested that my interest in this structure was based on my exclusion from it, or my race.

By trying to make me the focus of their followers' attention, they attempted to distract from the fact that they are the ones who have been accused of not being inclusive, sharing information, and preventing young black women from accessing opportunities for engagement.

The TTS leadership has not seen the final GBVF Council structure proposed by the ISC, nor have they seen the final NSP.

"We never even received an official response from them to our statement. We look forward to the findings of Parliament, and we are more than willing to share all our information about what has been going on with them," said Ncube.

Statement Three: The ISC responds On 6 March, the statement battle continued with a media release from the ISC through the Government Communication and Information Service (GCIS). Although the ISC is multisectoral and this would have been an opportunity to respond on the issues of representation raised by the TTS statement, the ISC chose only to respond to Parliament's statement.

I asked Olive Shisana, co-chair of the ISC, whether this statement had been viewed and contributed to by the civil society members of the ISC.

"The Steering Committee drafted and released it," she replied.

And who might be on the steering committee of the steering committee I asked?

"Key people. It wasn't sent to every single member because there wasn't time."

I spoke to three civil society members of the ISC for this piece, and of those two had not seen or known about the statement before it was released.

It seems apparent from the above that there is a group within the ISC that is operating separately from the rest - making decisions and releasing statements without including the group that was founded on inclusivity and representativeness.

The ISC's statement suggested that the Portfolio Committee was correct on some matters but wrong on others - Parliament was wrong that the ISC got any funds from the government for its work (even though it says this in the declaration) and wrong that the ISC resisted invitations to come to Parliament.

The statement also offers some advice to Parliament on who is best placed to speak to them: "The Inter-

im Steering Committee has indicated to the portfolio committee that the draft National Strategic Plan is currently the subject of Cabinet deliberation and that Cabinet approval will be followed by the unveiling of the plan by the Minister in the Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities who will be the appropriate authority to address the committee...

"Accountability, therefore, remains in place. In terms of a proposal made in the National Strategic Plan, a future, statutory, independent National Council on GBVF will report to Parliament on its programmes and activities."

Shisana repeated this messaging to me in our telephonic interview: "We are a temporary structure established by the president and we report to the president. So we can't go to Parliament on the president's behalf. The Ministry of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities - as well as many other departments - are part and parcel of the ISC. They're the ones who are politically responsible for accounting."

I suggested to Shisana that Section 57 of the Constitution gives Parliament the power to summon any person, not just government departments. Would she attend, I asked, if Parliament were to invite her and the ISC again? Her response suggested that this was unlikely.

"Are you Parliament yourself? We've answered the question of who should account," she said, and a long silence followed in which I repeatedly checked to see if she was still on the line. When I eventually hung up and tried to call back, she did not answer.

What to be done, and who should do it?

On March 11, Cabinet met and approved both the NSP and the structure for the National Council on Gender-Based Violence. The council will coordinate all state activities in relation to GBVF at a national, provincial, and local level and will be responsible for implementing the NSP. The council has already been allocated R15-million from the fiscus over the medium-term according to the 2020 Budget. The council will report to the president through the minister for women, youth and persons with disabilities. The structure of this council and the details in the NSP have not been made public at the time of writing this article.

Details on what happens to the ISC and whether this announcement results in their complete dissolution are not clear. But it is worth remembering that it was the ISC that was responsible for developing the NSP and the ISC in partnership with ministers that developed the structure for the council.

In addition to the council and the NSP, Cabinet announced the establishment of an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) on GBV comprised of the police minister, the minister of justice and correctional services, the minister of public service and administration, and the minister of social development to be led by the minister of women, youth and persons with disabilities. It specifies that the IMC now has the responsibility for setting up the council and exploring the possibility of legislating the council's structure.

It is as though we have just jumped in a time machine and gone back to 2012. In 2012 an IMC on Violence Against Women and Children was established. This IMC was responsible for implementing the Programme of Action Addressing Violence Against Women and Children (POA). The majority of the work of the previous IMC was delegated down to a Technical Task Team, made up of the DGs of various departments.

In the same year, South Africa tried to establish a council and it failed, not just because of the overlapping mandates, lack of funds and battles for government leadership, but because of destructive relationships with civil society. The 2013-2018 POA failed, and the council collapsed.

The reasons for this are well documented, by the CGE and the Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation. In 2018, the Technical Task Team led by the Department of Social Development was in the process of drafting a new programme of action to mitigate past mistakes, but when the summit happened and the calls for an NSP emerged, this POA disappeared.

Agencies



## NEWS

## UNHCR, humanitarian agencies seeking \$290 million for supporting Burundian refugees

By Guardian Correspondent

THE United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) together with its 36 humanitarian and development partners has launched a funding appeal of US \$ 290 million to assist more than 300,000 refugees from Burundi in the neighbouring countries.

As the Burundi refugee crisis approaches its sixth year, some 367,000 Burundian refugees are being generously hosted by Tanzania (168,000), Rwanda (73,000), Uganda (48,000) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (47,000).

The Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan aims to provide critical support in 2020 to some 352,000 refugees, in need of shelter, healthcare and schooling.

"The situation in Burundi remains complex. Though overall security has improved, significant human rights concerns persist," said Clementine Nkweta Salami, UNHCR Director for the Regional Bureau for East and Horn of Africa. "Hundreds of Burundian asylum seekers continue to arrive throughout the region each month."

Even as some refugees are opting to go back home, UNHCR and partners are not promoting refugee returns to Burundi at this stage. It is working with the governments in the region to assist those who indicate they have made a free and informed choice to return voluntarily. The majority of Burundian refugees will still require international protection for some time to come.

The 2020 Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan puts emphasis on the inclusion of refugees in national systems, and integrated service delivery with host communities. It also seeks self-reliance and the opportunity for refugees to contribute to their host countries.

In 2019, the Burundi situation remained one of the least funded refugee programme in the world with funding gap of 72 per cent out of US\$293 million needed. The consequences were acutely felt in all sectors including shelter, health and education.

Early this month, Athman Igwe, coordinator of the tripartite repatriation programme in Kigoma region told Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Hamad Masauni that 10,883 refugees making up 3,163 families that had earlier indicated readiness to leave the camps are no longer willing to do so.

Igwe said: "These are among 31,723 families with 93,503 members who had earlier applied to be repatriated to Burundi," he elaborated.

The programme is jointly undertaken by the governments of Tanzania and Burundi along with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and focuses on repatriating only those who are willing to go back on their own volition.

Since the voluntary repatriation programme began in 2017, some 27,459 families with 80,072 members have voluntarily returned to Burundi, with 715 families having 1,247 members repatriated in the past two months.

He said 36,127 refugees went to third countries, relocated in collaboration with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), where 200 were recently relocated to the United States and Australia.

More than 400,000 Burundians left the country following a surge in political violence in 2015 when the president ran for a disputed third term in office, with opponents accusing him of breaching the constitution.

## UWASA arrests 43 people allegedly found tampering with water infrastructure

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

TANGA Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (UWASA) has arrested 43 people for allegedly tampering with water infrastructures thus leading to massive theft and loss of the resource in various parts of the city.

Addressing journalists, Tanga-UWASA executive director Eng Geoffrey Hilly, said the arrested clients were involved in three types of water theft including using water illegally after disturbing the meter. According to him, the culprits of water theft were doing illegal connections of water while others were selling it to others thus bringing loss to the government.

"We are appealing for the public to continue reporting the incidences of water theft in their areas so as to curb the challenge," he said.

The DG said despite the number of challenges facing the authority, Uwasa has continued to control all loopholes to curb water theft which include removing old pipes to prevent leakage of water. He said UWASA has continued to provide clean and safe water to all people living in areas serviced by the authority.

Eng Hilly added that the authority is also providing clean water to 12 households that do not have the ability to pay for the service; they are provided with 160 litres per day. The number has declined from 32 to 12 as some of the households were disqualified. "The goal is to reach 100 poor households by 2020/21." Speaking on sewage system, the DG said the service has reached only 74 percent of all residents in the city saying that most of sewage system is in city centre.

He said that the demand of sewage system in Tanga was huge but due to the much cost of investment the speed of building more systems was going slow.

According to him, the authority is planning to reach 30 percent of sewage system depending on funds availability.

Tanga Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Authority operate in Tanga City. The total population of Tanga Municipality (city) as derived from the 2002 census is about 250,000 people of which about 86 percent live in the urban area and 14 percent live in villages within the Municipality.

The authority serves about 98 percent of the urban population with clean and safe water for average of 24 hours a day. The population served by the sewerage system is only 17 percent of the urban population.



Home Affairs deputy minister Hamad Masauni addresses refugees at Nduta camp in Kibondo District. File Photo



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
MINISTRY OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION  
TANZANIA SHIPPING AGENCIES CORPORATION  
TASAC



## PUBLIC NOTICE

### IMPLEMENTATION OF EXCLUSIVE MANDATE BY TASAC IN SHIP TALLYING SERVICES AND SHIPPING AGENCY

Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC) is established under section 4 of the Tanzania Shipping Agencies Act, Cap. 415 as maritime administration, regulator of maritime safety, security and protection of the marine environment, ports and shipping services. The Corporation is also mandated to exclusively conduct shipping business on clearing and forwarding of specified import and export shipments, ship tallying, document control and specified areas of shipping agency in accordance with section 7(1) of the Act.

TASAC commenced implementation of shipping agency on 3rd February, 2020 covering the areas of tanker ships, cruise ships, exploration vessels, military vessels and any vessel calling for discharging or loading military cargo.

The general public is thus informed that the Corporation will extend to one of pending areas shipping agency functions to cover all general cargo ships including dry bulk ships with effect from 20th April, 2020.

This Notice is issued to enable port terminal operators, ship owners/operators, shipping agents, shippers, consignees, clearing and forwarding agents and all stakeholders to prepare themselves accordingly and accord cooperation to TASAC to fulfill its legal obligations.

Please note that it is contrary to section 7(3) of the Tanzania Shipping Agencies Act, Cap. 415 for any party other than TASAC to carry out or facilitate the carrying out of exclusive mandate in shipping agency functions as mentioned above with effect from 20th April, 2020.

Issued by:

**Director General**  
**Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation**







# MLIMANI HOLDINGS PARENT COMPANY POSTS 27.1BN/- PROFIT LAST YEAR

By Property Watch Reporter

**T**URNSTAR Holdings Limited, which owns Mlimani Holdings Limited post net profit of 134 million Botswana pulas (over 27.1bn/-) during the first six months of last year, the company said in its latest interim report.

The Botswana Stock Exchange listed company said in its interim statement for the year ended July 31, 2019 that the total rental revenue of P 134m was an increase of 6.75 percent over the corresponding prior half year.

"The profit from operations is P 77.6m, a 7.81 percent increase over the prior half year. Profit after finance costs increased by P 4.78m, (8.54 percent) to P 60.78m," the report stated noting however that operational expenses increased by 6.18 percent to P58.3 million, over the same previous period.

"However, the Mlimani Commercial Office space experienced significant vacancies. The Dubai property continues to perform well," the report added while pointing out that the US dollar appreciated against the Botswana Pula, during the period although it was lower than the corresponding period of year ended 31 July 2018.

"As such, the group net forex gain and the translation gains were less than that reported for the previous half year ended 31 July 2018," the company's interim results report noted saying the foreign exchange translation gains are unrealised and dependant on the U \$ /BWP exchange rate at the accounting date.

"The Botswana properties were well tenanted during the reporting half year, with vacancy rates being approximately



Dar es Salaam Mlimani City Conference Centre performed well last year and contributed to profit made by Turnstar Holdings Limited.

a percent. The retail mall in Tanzania was fully tenanted and the conference centre enjoyed increased patronage," the report noted.

Segment information is organised into two, geographical and into operating segments which comprises retail and commercial. The segments are the basis on which the company reports, the Turnstar Holdings HY2019 results added.

Turnstar Holdings through its local subsidiary, Mlimani Holdings Limited has a lease agreement with University of Dar es Salaam which receives annually rent as landlord till 2027 when the investor will have recouped the over US 120 million investment.

Apart from MHL, Turnstar Holdings also owns Island View (Proprietary) Limited in Botswana, Turnstar Investments Limited in United Arab Emirates and Palazzo Venezia Holdings Limited also in UAE.

Botswana property investor, Gulaam Abdoola through his GH Group invested US\$100m at Mlimani City by 2013 when he sold the company to Turnstar Holdings in which he is also a founder director and current CEO.

## IATA wants air cargo operations excluded from Covid-19 'war measures'

By Property Watch Reporter

WITH the growing fear of Covid-19 (coronavirus) globally, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and its members continue to support governments in their efforts to contain the spread of the pandemic.

Since the crisis began, air cargo has been a vital partner in delivering much-needed medicines, medical equipment (including spare parts/repair components), and in keeping global supply chains functioning for the most time-sensitive materials. This has been done

through dedicated cargo freighter operations, utilisation of cargo capacity in passenger aircraft and relief flights to affected areas.

Governments to take the following actions: Exclude air cargo operations from any Covid-19-related travel restrictions, to ensure life-saving medical products can be transported without disruption; Ensure that standardised measures are in place so that air cargo can continue to move around the world with minimal disruptions; Exempt air cargo crew members, who do not interact with the public, from 14-day quarantine requirements; Support temporary traffic rights for cargo operations where

restrictions may apply; and Remove economic impediments, such as overly charges, parking fees, and slot restrictions to support air cargo operations during these unprecedented times.

"Over 185,000 passenger flights have been cancelled since the end of January in response to government travel restrictions. With this, vital cargo capacity has disappeared when it is most urgently needed in the fight against Covid-19.

The world's fleet of freighter aircraft has been mobilized to make up this capacity shortfall. Governments must take urgent measures to ensure that vital supply lines remain open, efficient and

effective," said Alexandre de Juniac, IATA's director general and CEO.

The dramatic travel restrictions and the collapse of passenger demand have severely limited cargo capacity. IATA calls on governments to take urgent measures to ensure that air cargo will be available to support the global fight against Covid-19.

"Air cargo carriers are working closely with governments and health organisations around the world to safeguard public health while also keeping the global economy moving. Today, as we fight a global health war against Covid-19, governments must take urgent action to facili-

tate air cargo. Keeping cargo flowing will save lives," said de Juniac.

In Africa, Djibouti International Airport will be closed from March 18, 2020.

All passenger traffic will be shut down until a date to be set, while freight traffic will remain active as air cargo is instrumental in transporting food and other products purchased online in support of quarantine and social distancing policies implanted by states. Due to additional mobility restrictions for Covid-19, Ethiopian Airlines flights to Milan Malpensa are suspended from March 17, 2020, until further notice.

## Bankers to Tanesco: Support war on Covid-19 by ensuring power supply remains stable

By Property Watch Reporter

IN a bid to stop the impact of coronavirus in banking industry, banks have urged state power supply utility, Tanesco to maintain steady supply of electricity and allow the public to easily transact digitally to curb COVID-19 spreading.

Tanzania Bankers Association Vice Chairman, Sunjay Rughani said during a meeting with Bank of Tanzania officials and Deputy Minister for Health Dr Faustine Ndugulile that digital banking which avoids people visiting physical branches is one of the key solutions.

"If we have Tanesco and other public institutions which ensure that digital banking is operating smoothly, then we will have solved a big part of the problem," Rughani said

while stressing that avoiding huge gathering in banking halls is a proper way to stop the virus which has affected three people in the country so far while many others who have been in contact with the victims remain in self isolation.

Deputy Minister for Health, Dr Faustine Ndugulile assured the bankers that the government is doing everything possible to stop the spread of the deadly virus which has so far not claimed any fatalities locally.

"Tanzania is one of the countries with a very good health care surveillance and diseases testing system hence although the deadly disease is present in the country, its largely under control," Dr Ndugulile said noting that due to China being one of the country's major trading

partners, coronavirus has been imported into the country.

An official from Bank of Tanzania, Deogratias Assey commended the banking industry for taking measures to stop the spread of the virus saying the central bank is following up the impact that the scourge will have on the economy.

"I commend you for placing sanitizer dispensers at your branches and ATM machines so that people can wash their hands before entering banking halls or accessing ATMs," Assey said who also backed Rughani's suggestion that digital banking is the solution to the virus which is spread through droplets and direct contact with sick people.



Deputy Health Minister, Dr Faustine Ndugulile (gesturing) when he talked to Tanzania Bankers association members led by their Chairman, Abdulmajid Nsekela of CRDB Bank Plc (centre facing camera). Photo courtesy of CRDB.



# AFTER YEARS OF LOSS MAKING, TROUBLED SHELTER AFRIQUE FINALLY REGISTERS PROFITABLE GROWTH

By Property Watch Reporter

**T**ROUBLED pan African housing development financier, Shelter Afrique managed to post a modest US\$78,000 profit which represented a 111 percent growth during the first half of last year.

In a report, Shelter Afrique Chairman Mr Daniel Nghidinua said the results signalled completion of its turnaround plan after years of loss making and mismanagement.

Nghidinua said the company's net profit grew from a loss of US\$ 5.1m recorded in the first half of 2018, against budgeted loss of US\$ 0.72m for the period ending 30 June 2019. The renaissance was backed by growth in fees and commissions from new projects, performing loan book, and from loan recoveries.

"The positive indicators beginning to merge is a sign that the recovery process and efforts to return the company to financial sustainability is bearing fruit," Nghidinua said adding that enhanced corporate governance practices, robust enterprise risk management and a new management team contributed to the growth.

"But also a new strategic plan, a new business model, and debt restructuring plans played key roles in fast-tracking the turnaround process," he added.

Following 2016 disruptive event, Shelter Afrique restructured its business and developed a 5-year strategic plan with a primary focus on turning around the company's financial performance from loss-making to financial viability by 2020 and overall financial sustainability by 2023.

"The return to profitability ahead of time is an indication that the turnaround strategy has come full circle and is now ready for business," the Shelter Afrique Chairman noted saying that during the period under review, fees and other incomes, grew by 11 percent to US\$0.8m from recurring fees on performing loan book. Liquidity position remained stable, with the average liquidity ratio above 15 percent minimum threshold.

However, interest income recorded a 19 percent decline during the period under review to US\$779m due to declining loan portfolio on the back of no new lending for past two-and-half years. Consequently, interest expense decreased by 35 percent due to lower debt load while operating expenses also decreased by



Karibu Homes in Nairobi, Kenya.

9 percent to US\$3.8m as a result of stringent cost-containment measures.

Total assets declined by 26 percent year-on-year to US\$208m due to decreased loan book. Cash balances, however, rose by 4 percent to US\$4m. Shareholders' funds declined by 16 percent year-on-year to US\$110m due to the impact of operating losses in last three years

and IFRS 9 Transition Adjustment made in December 2018.

"The picture continues to improve with sustained equity capital subscription receipts of US\$8.7m to date," said Shelter Afrique's Managing Director, Andrew Chimphondah.

The company temporarily halted undertak-

ing of new projects in 2016 to pave the way for the restructuring of its operations and the development of a new strategic direction. It resumed full operations early 2019.

"We have adopted an aggressive approach to business following our resumption of operations this year, which involves getting into meaningful partnerships and doubling our

loan recovery efforts," Chimphondah added stressing that the target was to reduce non-performing loans significantly by the end of last year. Some of the projects the company launched last year included Richland Pointe, Everest Apartments, and Karibu Homes in Kenya, and Rugarama housing project in Rwanda.

## Hotel occupancy falls on travel ban

NAIROBI

HOTEL occupancy has fallen to its lowest in the recent past as the government's guidelines meant to contain the spread of Covid-19 result in a sharp decline of tourist numbers, and limited movements and fear of crowded space cripple restaurants.

A spot check by the Business Daily showed that hotels in tourist-dependent Coast region were recording occupancy as low as 20 per cent compared to more than 75 per cent around the same time last year.

In Nairobi, restaurants have switched to offering home delivery services to arrest a dip in walk-in clients while setting up sanitary measures and promoting safety distancing to give assurance to clients.

"Business is bad. I have seen a 50 per cent drop in clients and although we have put delivery in place it is not picking up since most of the clients are not used to it yet. If the situation persists I may be forced to close some of the branches," city eatery Café Deli's managing director, Obado Obadoh, said.

Sankara Hotel PR and marketing manager Keijah Bekah said business had dropped significantly since the government issued the directive limiting movements. She said the hotel management will soon make a decision on their operations. "We have beefed up sanitisers and temperature checks and implemented government safety guidelines but traffic has still dipped," she said.

Diani Reef manager Jotham Mwang'ombe said client numbers cannot sustain the staff and that they will be forced to send some of them home. Kenya Association of Hotel Keepers and Caterers (KAHC) executive officer Sam Ikwaye said there is need to start planning for the future of the industry to cushion the investors.

"The industry needs more than six months to recover since it depends on advance bookings. There



Sankara Hotel in Nairobi.

is need to deal with the situation at the moment if we have to recover on time. In the next one week, with the same situation, we shall not be having any international tourist in our hotels," said Mr Ikwaye.

Travellers Hotel sales manager Bonface Wafula said the government should consider a tax waiver to hotels. "At the moment we are operating at 29 per cent compared to 89 per cent in March last year

and the numbers are going down every day," said Mr Wafula, adding the government should consider a stimulus package to jump-start the industry.

## Nigeria to spend US \$405m Sukuk bond on 44 highway projects

ABUJA

THE federal government of Nigeria is set to spend US \$405m Sukuk bond to finance 44 ongoing highway projects. Minister of State for Works and Housing, Engr Abubakar D. Aliyu disclosed the report and said that the funds will be issued by the Debt Management Office (DMO).

The Minister explained that insufficient of funds, the federal government had to leverage on alternative sources of funding to finance infrastructure. He noted the 44 roads forms part of the over 500 road and bridge projects currently being undertaken by the Ministry as its contribution to infrastructure provision in the country. The government had already in 2017 and 2018 spent US \$541m Sukuk bonds on 58 critical highway projects across the country.

"This concerted and sustained effort in road infrastructure financing has positively impacted on the physical completion of many of the projects. Expansion, Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Lagos-Ibadan road, Construction of Second Niger Bridge and the Rehabilitation of Abuja-Kaduna-Kano Dual Carriageway are being financed with the Presidential Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF)," said Engr Abubakar.

The Minister applauded that the impact of Sukuk bond would be felt on nation building through job creation, growth and employment. Federal Government contractors would be the first beneficiaries, which would in turn trickle down to suppliers of building materials, artisans, miners and steel companies.

Sukuk comes from the word Sakk, which means legal instrument, deed and cheque when translated. It can also mean to strike a deal on paper. The first Sukuk transaction took place in Damascus, Syria in the Great Mosque of Damascus back in the 7th century AD. Ownership of an asset is clearly shown in sukuk. The Shariah law plays a major role in ensuring that the assets that back Sukuk are of good moral standard.

## Uganda seeks US \$328m for Kampala-Jinja expressway project

KAMPALA

THE government of Uganda is seeking US \$267m for the Kampala-Jinja expressway project. The money is to be obtained from the African Development Bank and the French Agency for Development.

The loan request was presented by Mr David Bahati, the State minister for Planning. Both loans have a grace period of eight years and 25 years maturity period. However, the tentative interest for the African Development Bank is 2.25% with a commitment fee of 0.25% for non-disbursed amount.

On the other hand, money from the French Development Agency will attract a tentative interest of 1.5 per cent while failure to pay commitment fees will attract a 0.5 per cent annual interest on non-disbursed amounts.

The billion dollar project forms part of the Northern trade cor-

ridor from Mombasa in Kenya through Kigali in Rwanda. This is a strategic corridor which serves as a trade link to the sea for land locked countries of Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan as well as the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

The initial project preparation

commenced with a feasibility study in 2010 before it hit a snag due to unknown reasons. The 95 kilometer (59-mile) Project comprises of:77km of the Kampala-Jinja mainline (KJE) Expressway of 4+4 lanes for the first 32km, and then 2+2 lanes for the remaining 42km with a design speed of

up to 120kph and Kampala South-ern Bypass (KSB) - an 18km Urban Expressway of 2+2 Lanes with design speed up to 100kph which will start at Butabika, on the Eastern outskirts of Kampala, and link with the new Kampala-Jinja mainline Expressway then connect in Muniyonyo.

This project will be the first built in the country using a public-private partnership (PPP) model. This implies that the contractor awarded the contract will design, build and operate the route for 30 years, earning profits by charging tolls before transferring the ownership to the state. Road transport



## TECHNOLOGY

## SOFTBANK BACKS AWAY FROM BUYING \$3BN IN WEWORK SHARES



Coronavirus has affected WeWorks shared space like this which used to be a popular combination.

## TOKYO

**S**OFTBANK has reportedly pulled back from buying \$3 billion in WeWork shares from existing shareholders, citing legal investigations of the company's management and a possible restructuring of the co-working giant's China business.

The Japanese investment firm sent a letter to WeWork shareholders this week, according to separate reports by the Wall Street Journal, the Financial Times and the New York Times, indicating that it did not expect to purchase the shares by 1 April, as previously scheduled in a \$7 billion bailout package agreed to in October of last year following the company's failed IPO.

The change in plans for the troubled office leasing firm could deny former CEO Adam Neumann a nearly \$1 billion payout, but is said to leave in place \$5 billion in financing that Softbank has committed to keep WeWork running. However, fresh reports from Hong Kong this week show that the company appears to have already delayed earlier expansion plans in Asia's wealthiest city.

US, NY authorities said investigating WeWork  
 Since agreeing to provide fresh

financing for WeWork last year, Softbank been asked by the US Securities and Exchange Commission and the country's Justice Department for information regarding WeWork's communications with investors, according to the Wall Street Journal report, which cited sources familiar with the company's operations.

In November of last year both the SEC and the New York attorney general's office were said to be inquiring into WeWork's filings for its IPO and other disclosures after reports of conflict of interest and self-dealing by Neumann and other executives at the once lauded real estate startup.

As part of its takeover WeWork, Softbank had reportedly offered to pay \$3 billion to buy out shares held by other investors in a deal which would have paid Neumann \$970 million for turning over his stake in the company, which also guaranteed control.

In February, however, Softbank's Marcelo Claure, who took over as WeWork executive chairman following Neumann's departure, called the reports of the Israeli-born entrepreneur's payout exaggerated.

"To say that he has walked away with over a billion dollars is totally false," Claure said in a CNBC interview. Earlier accounts had indicated that in addition to the \$970 million stock deal, Softbank was providing Neumann with a \$185 million consulting fee and \$500 million in credit to help repay loans he had received from the company.

Softbank could still go ahead with its share purchase plan at a later date, according to an account in the Financial Times, although no schedule was provided for such a resumption.

## Seeking a new deal in China

In an account in the New York Times, which cited sources familiar with Softbank's plans, the future of the company's China joint venture is also an obstacle to the planned share

transaction with the report indicating that the Japanese firm had yet to agree to terms "for consolidating a WeWork joint venture in China." While further details regarding the consolidation were not provided, a Reuters report in January indicated that Singapore's Temasek Holdings, together with Shanghai-based investment manager Trustbridge Partners, had proposed to take a majority stake in WeWork China.

Under its current structure, WeWork is said to own 59 percent of its China business, with Softbank, Hony Capital and Trustbridge, along with other investors, owning the remaining 41 percent. With shared office providers having suffered steep downturns in occupancy since the advent of the novel coronavirus last year, any progress on the reported China buyout deal remains unclear.

In Hong Kong, WeWork has yet to open three new centres which the company had earlier indicated that it would open last year, according to an account today in the South China Morning Post. WeWork had not responded to inquiries from Mingtiandi regarding the status of the planned centres by the time of publication.

In October WeWork had announced plans to open new locations in the Sun Life Tower in Tsim Sha Tsui, in Hysan Place in Causeway Bay, with another location in the Octa Tower in Kwun Tong said to be "opening soon." Since that time, none of three centres has opened, although a centre managed by WeWork in the Quayside in Kwun Tong has begun operation, as has WeWork H Code in Central. In November, WeWork was reported to be seeking replacement tenants to take over six centres it had agreed to lease in Hong Kong.



Fountain Views hotel

## Emaar stops bookings at three Dubai hotels due to dip in demand

## DUBAI

**EMAAR Hospitality will stop taking bookings at three hotels in Dubai from March 15 until August 31 because of the global effects of the coronavirus on the travel industry and falling demand.**

The three hotels are Address Fountain Views at Downtown Dubai, Vida Creek Harbour near Dubai Creek and Vida Emirates Hills located in Emaar's Emirates Hills master development in Dubai.

The National tried to book rooms through the hotels' website, but a message said: "The property is unavailable for these dates." Despite the booking freeze, gyms, restaurants and pools at the hotels will remain open during the period, Emaar said. Emaar Hospitality is a subsidiary of Dubai's top developer Emaar Properties.

"Following the recent global impact on the travel industry drawing us into a state of force majeure, Emaar Hospitality Group has taken the decision to temporarily refocus its operations on a selected number of assets," an Emaar Hospitality representative told The National.

Emaar Hospitality Group was created in 2007. It owns and manages a portfolio of hospitality assets and brands including Address Hotels +

Resorts and Vida Hotels and Resorts, in addition to serviced residences, leisure clubs, restaurants and spas, according to its website.

The novel coronavirus, which first appeared in the Chinese city of Wuhan, has now spread to more than 100 countries, killed more than 3,800 people and infected more than 100,000. The rapid spread of Covid-19 has disrupted global supply chains, dampened demand for travel and rattled stock markets globally.

Arabian Travel Market, a major exhibition for the region's travel and tourism industry which was due to take place from April 19 to 22 at Dubai World Trade Centre, has been postponed due to concerns over the spread of the coronavirus. The event will now be held from June 28 to July 1, according to organiser Reed Travel Exhibitions. ATM attracts more than 39,000 professionals from the global travel industry, generating about \$2.5 billion of new business.

The March 17-19 Global Aerospace Summit is now taking place from June 8 to 10. Global airlines are expected to lose \$63bn to \$113bn in passenger revenue this year due to the coronavirus, the International Air Transport Association said, after revising an earlier estimate of a \$29.3bn loss last month.

## Economic reforms, strong fundamentals draw global investors to India

## NEW DELHI

Investment in India's commercial real estate market has increased more than fivefold in a decade as investors seek to take advantage of the city's strong demographics and governmental reforms.

Commercial real estate investment in India hit US\$5.5 billion in 2019 with more than US\$20 billion invested in the country's property sector over the past five years. The surge in investment came as investment into global commercial real estate markets hit a record high of US\$800 billion in 2019.

India is expanding its slice of international property investment as large global investors seek to take advantage of the country's rapid growth. "India's fastest growing cities have been drawing significant levels of interest from overseas investors, who are looking to tap into the country's growing economy," says Stuart Crow, CEO Capital Markets, JLL Asia Pacific.

Blackstone, Brookfield, CPPIB lead the way

Leading the pack has been Blackstone Group, which had invested US\$6.6 billion in Indian real estate by September 2019,

according to local media. Other global investors heavily committed to India include Brookfield and Canada Pension Plan Investment Board. Thus far, foreign investment has been limited to larger investors, who have made a long-term commitment to India.

India's economy and demographics have been attractive for some time: GDP growth has averaged 6 to 8 percent over the past decade and the nation has a young population (a median age of 28 compared with 38 in China) and a rapidly growing middle class. Bain & Company predicts consumption will grow to US\$5.7 trillion in 2030, from US\$1.5 trillion in 2018.

However, it is the combination of government reforms with economic drivers which has led India real estate to really take off. The government of Narendra Modi, which won a second term last year, has introduced a series of reforms, many of which have benefited the real estate sector.

New measures which have encouraged the industry include the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016, which introduced a number of measures to improve transparency, and relaxation of restrictions on



A main street in New Delhi, India

foreign direct investment. These improvements to the business environment have made India easier to invest in than many emerging economies, which restrict foreign ownership.

The government has also made a huge commitment to improving the nation's infrastructure. Last September, India committed to spending US\$1.5 trillion on new infrastructure, part of plans to more than double the size of the Indian economy to US\$5 trillion over the next

five years.

"We are starting to see the fruits of the Indian government's ongoing focus on improving infrastructure and making it easier to do business. These structural reforms bring more market transparency, which boosts investment into real estate," says Crow.

Investment doubles in four years

Improved confidence from global investors is clearly evident, says Priyank Shah,

Director, Capital Markets Asia Pacific, JLL.

"The last four years have seen investment double. India's real estate sector attracted approximately US\$30 billion of institutional investment between 2009 and 2018, the decade post GFC."

The office sector has been the prime target so far, with both Brookfield and Blackstone acquiring billions of dollars' worth of office parks in booming IT cities such as Bengaluru.

Last year, Blackstone launched India's first real estate investment trust in partnership with local group Embassy.

The success of that REIT, which has seen its unit price rise by one third since it floated, has been another confidence boost for Indian real estate.

However the sector with most growth potential is logistics, which has seen substantial investment from sector specialists, often backed by global investors. Again, structural

reform has driven the market. The introduction of a national goods and services tax (GST) in 2017 replaced a host of state taxes which had made establishing national logistics networks difficult.

Since then, logistics majors GLP, ESR and Logos have invested heavily in establishing India operations.

For example GLP joined forces with India's largest logistics specialist Indospace, alongside capital from CPPIB. "India's logistics real estate sector is gaining favour due to e-commerce growth and changes in consumption habits," says Shah.

The favoured cities for international investment so far have been India's capital, Delhi, the financial capital of Mumbai and IT stronghold Bengaluru, which together have accounted for two thirds of real estate investments over the past decade.

JLL's City Momentum Index 2020, which identifies the world's most dynamic cities from a real estate perspective, is led by two Indian cities: Hyderabad and Bengaluru. Another five Indian cities make the Top 20 - Chennai (5th), Delhi (6th), Pune (12th), Kolkata (16th) and Mumbai (20th).



## WORLD

## Africans hail China's efforts in curbing COVID-19, keen to learn its experience

ADDIS ABABA

AFRICANS have hailed China's efforts and measures taken to curb the COVID-19 outbreak, expressing their keen interest to learn its experience as the African continent reported more and more confirmed cases.

China and Africa on Wednesday held a videoconference that connected 24 African countries and the African Union (AU) Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), whereby China expressed its commitment to sharing experience and supporting Africa in the fight against the epidemic.

As of March 18, 2020, there are slightly over 500 cases of COVID-19 in 31 of the 55 AU members, according to Africa CDC.

The very purpose of the videoconference was to share China's best experience with African countries as part of the Chinese commitment to supporting and assisting Africa in the fight against the epidemic, said Dai Bing, Director-General of the Department of African Affairs of China's Foreign Ministry, in his capacity of chairing the videoconference.

Reiterating China's gains in the fight against the epidemic, Dai expressed China's commitment to international cooperation in the fighting against the

epidemic, emphasizing also on further support to African countries in particular.

The China-Africa Video Conference on COVID-19, which was opened with remarks and measures taken by China in the country, was followed by discussion, question and answer session, whereby Africa CDC and the 24 African countries took turns to forward various questions and points to the Chinese side, and the Chinese side responded accordingly. Speaking on her part and asking question on testing, Liya Tadesse, Ethiopia's Minister of Health, has hailed the videoconference, which the Chinese government has organized to share its experience in the battle against the epidemic.

The minister said her ministry is happy about participating in the videoconference and discussion by which she said China shares "amazing experience in curbing this outbreak."

The Deputy Director of Africa CDC, Ahmed E. Ogwel Ouma, told Xinhua that the videoconference is a good example that the Chinese government has placed its experience on the table for Africa countries to be able to see and use in the fight against the epidemic.

"Right now that China has already done a very big effort in controlling this outbreak," said Ouma. "We are

very impressed by the reduction in the numbers; and we think in a short while the outbreak should be declared finished in China," he said.

"The experience that China has undergone is very important for us, because our is just starting, while in China it is ending. That experience is very important."

Africa CDC is working very closely with China CDC to ensure that Africa CDC is better prepared to support countries, and also to ensure that African countries are also learning from the experience of China, he added.

Speaking to Xinhua after participating in the video conference, Isaac Phiri, the deputy director for epidemiology and disease control in the Ministry of Health, said Zimbabwe required a wide range of assistance from personnel training, equipment and drugs. "We require personal protective equipment.

That is one of the most important equipment that we need. We also need laboratory equipment, rapid test kits and the new medication that China is using," Phiri said.

Zimbabwe has not reported any confirmed case of the virus and President Emmerson Mnangagwa on Tuesday declared COVID-19 a national disaster to enable the government to mobilize resources towards fighting the virus.

He said continuous training for health staff on dealing with COVID-19 was required, noting that a Chinese medical team already in the country was helping local health officials with the training and case management.

Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Health Mutahi Kagwe said Kenya can learn from China's experiences in managing the response to the COVID-19

outbreak. "This is an extremely important step in terms of knowledge sharing and it gave us a tremendous amount of knowledge which we believe will also go a long way to assisting our people," said Kagwe.

Abdoulaye Bouso, director of the Emergency Health Operations Center of Senegal's Ministry of Health and Social Action, said Senegal is adopting China's anti-epidemic model, which he believed was more effective than the European model, to combat the spread of novel coronavirus, after attending the videoconference.

China has taken effective measures to control the spread of the virus, and other countries should learn from the measures taken by China, he said.

Stating that China is almost winning the battle against the epidemic and that the country is seeing the light at the end of the tunnel, Dai said the victory is not only of China, but the outcome of global cooperation and solidarity.

He stated that China is committed from the start to international cooperation of fighting the epidemic guided by the vision and spirit of building a community with a shared future for mankind.

"China and Africa are good friends, partners and brothers, supporting each other all the time. Now the epidemic situation in Africa is challenging as more and more countries have confirmed cases," he said, adding that China is ready to share its experience and provide support and assistance within its capability. "We are confident that we will definitely win the battle against the epidemic with joint efforts," he said.

Xinhua



Dai Bing, Director-General of the Department of African Affairs of China's Foreign Ministry

## WHO warns against mislabeling coronavirus

GENEVA/LONDON/LAUSANNE

A SENIOR official of the World Health Organization (WHO) warned against mislabeling the novel coronavirus and called for joint efforts to fight COVID-19.

"Viruses know no borders, and they don't care your ethnicity or the color of your skin or how much money you have in the bank," Michael Ryan, executive director of WHO's health emergencies program, said at a news conference on Wednesday in response to some US politicians calling the novel coronavirus a "Chinese virus".

"It's really important that we be careful in the language we use, lest it lead to profiling of individuals associated with the virus," Ryan said, noting that "this is just something we need to all avoid."

He gave an example of the H1N1 influenza outbreak in 2009, saying that the pandemic "originated in North America, and we didn't call it the North American flu."

Meanwhile, the official called for solidarity and joint efforts to combat the disease. "This is a time to move forward together to fight this virus together, there is no blame in this," he noted.

According to the latest statistics from the Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University, the tally of confirmed cases of the COVID-19 pandemic has reached over 218,000 and spans 158 countries and regions.

Countries across the world must take a comprehensive approach to fighting the pandemic of the COVID-19 disease and isolate, test and trace as many cases as possible, the WHO said.

"To suppress and control the epidemic, countries must isolate, test, treat and trace," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

"If they don't, transmission chains can continue at a low level and then resurface once physical distancing measures are lifted," he added. He said the test and trace strategy "must be the backbone of the response in every country".

Tedros also said that to speed the search for potential therapies and drugs for COVID-19 infection, the WHO and its partners are organizing a multi-country study to analyze and compare some as yet untested treatments.

"This large international study is designed to generate the robust data we need to show which treatments are the most effective," Tedros said. "We have called this study the solidarity trial."

With the world facing an escalating challenge from the disease, "it's also an unprecedented opportunity to come together as one against a common enemy," WHO wrote on its Twitter feed on Wednesday.

Xinhua



WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (right) and WHO Health Emergencies Programme Executive Director Michael Ryan attend a press conference in Geneva. (File photo)

## Wuhan reports no new infections for first time

WUHAN

No new infections of the novel coronavirus were reported on Wednesday in Wuhan, the epicenter of the epidemic, marking a notable first in the city's month-long battle with the virus.

The Health Commission of Hubei province, where Wuhan is the capital, said the virus' death toll climbed by eight in the province, but the total confirmed cases in Wuhan and Hubei remained at 50,005 and 67,800 on Wednesday.

There was no increase in the province's number of suspected cases, which fell to zero on Tuesday, in another indication that large-scale transmissions have been suppressed at the epidemic ground zero.

Previously, the central Chinese province had reported single-digit increases of new infections, all of which were from Wuhan, for a week in a row since last Wednesday. A month ago, the figure was several thousand a day.

The province also saw 795 patients discharged from hospital after recovery on Wednesday, reducing its caseload of hospitalized patients to 6,636, including



Passengers line up to board a cable car in southwest China's Chongqing, March 18, 2020. XINHUA

1,809 in severe condition and 465 in critical condition.

No new domestically transmitted cases were reported on the Chinese mainland Wednesday, according to data from the National Health Commission Thursday.

The commission said it received reports of 34 new confirmed COVID-19 cases on the mainland Wednesday, all of which were imported. Among them, 21 were reported in Beijing, nine in Guangdong province, two in Shanghai, and one in Heilongjiang and Zheji-

ang provinces respectively. By the end of Wednesday, 189 imported cases had been reported, said the commission.

Also on Wednesday, eight deaths and 23 new suspected cases were reported on the mainland. A total of 819 people were discharged from hospital after recovery, while the number of severe cases decreased by 308 to 2,314.

The overall confirmed cases on the mainland had reached 80,928 by the end of Wednesday, including 7,263 patients who were still

being treated, 70,420 patients who had been discharged after recovery, and 3,245 people who died of the disease.

The commission said that 105 people were still suspected of being infected with the virus. The commission added that 9,144 close contacts were still under medical observation. On Wednesday, 1,032 people were released from medical observation.

By the end of Wednesday, 192 confirmed cases including four deaths had been reported in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR), 15 confirmed cases in the Macao SAR, and 108 in Taiwan including one death.

A total of 95 patients in Hong Kong, 10 in Macao and 22 in Taiwan had been discharged from hospital after recovery.

The clearing of new infections in Wuhan came earlier than previously predicted, but it is still too early to let down guard, said Zhang Boli, an academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering and one of the leading experts advising on the epidemic fight in Hubei. Arduous work still lies ahead as China strengthens defense against imported cases from abroad,

treating thousands of patients still in serious or critical condition and rehabilitate those discharged from hospitals, Zhang said.

China began to see a drop in the number of COVID-19 patients on Feb 18, after the number of recovered patients surged and new cases declined. By late February, the virus had withdrawn from most territories on the Chinese mainland, with only single-digit daily increases of infections in areas outside Wuhan.

On March 6, the epidemic epicenter Wuhan slashed the daily increase of confirmed cases to below 100, down from a peak of more than 14,000 in early February. Bruce Aylward, who led the China-WHO joint mission on COVID-19, said the outbreak in China had come down "faster than would have been expected."

## China ensures stable production, supply of farm products amid epidemic

THE supply of key farm produce remains generally adequate and the market is on stable operation despite the impact of the novel coronavirus outbreak, said a press conference recently held by the Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism of the State Council.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs said it will guide relevant associations and enterprises to carry out matchmaking and marketing activities, so as to smooth the channels for farm produce sales and minimize the impact from the epidemic.

Since this year's Spring Festival, the epidemic has been driving new changes in the supply of farm produce

- something that concerns the everyday life and well-being of both farmers and urban residents, such as the massive online purchases of vegetables, the popularity of non-contact delivery, and neighborhood-based group orders placed in WeChat groups.

These new changes met people's demand for daily necessities and stabilized social expectations, providing strong support for the country's efforts to win the fight against the epidemic and maintain the general social and economic stability.

According to the press conference, key farm produce has been on stable supply in recent days.

The price of vegetables experienced

slight fluctuations, while that of eggs and chicken went down from the pre-Spring Festival period. It is estimated that China currently has more than 84 million mu (5.6 million hectares) of vegetables, or around 170 million tons grown in the fields, both a 2-percent uptick from the previous year. The production of beef, mutton, poultry, eggs and aquatic products also remained stable, and that of hogs is rebounding.

In an effort to stabilize production and supply of farm produce across the country, China has recently rolled out a series of targeted policies and earnestly implemented the program of city mayors taking responsibility for

the non-grain food supply. Besides, it has been trying to tackle the obstacles and difficulties in both production and supply sectors, aiming to improve the country's capability in maintaining the production, supply and circulation of key farm produce.

On the supply side, what's offered on the farm produce market has a close relation with the income of the farmers, and efficient supply of the products is of great importance to promoting agricultural development and increasing farmers' income.

Farming season passes no matter what happens, so at the key stage of spring plowing, the country must ensure its farming while maintain-

ing efforts of epidemic prevention to guarantee adequate supply of farm produce. Apart from the timely collection of winter and spring vegetables, the country should also keep appropriate crop rotation and expand the planting of fast-growing vegetables.

As green leafy vegetables are in a rising demand, peri-urban areas shall speed up the production of such varieties to strengthen local supply, and agricultural enterprises and cooperatives are also encouraged to practice flexible allocation of the rural labor force so as to resume production as soon as possible.

To guarantee stable production and

supply of major farm produce, China needs to open "green channels" for fresh agricultural products so as to ensure efficient supply. The facilitation of rapid circulation of vegetables are a top priority especially when the epidemic is exerting a major impact on the supply chain of agricultural products.

In an effort to facilitate the "first mile" of agricultural products after production, China's "No. 1 Central Document" issued last month proposed to establish cold chain logistics infrastructure for the storage of these products.

According to the latest data, over 210,000 people have contracted the virus, about 8,500 of them have died. A total of 147 coronavirus cases have been confirmed in Russia so far, one person has died.

Agencies

All people arriving in Russia from abroad will be required to undergo a two-week self-isolation, starting from the day of arrival, due to the risk of the coronavirus spread, reads the directive of Russia's Chief Sanitary Doctor Anna Popova posted on the official legal information website yesterday.

"The top officials of Russia's constituent entities [must] ensure the isolation of all individuals arriving in the Russian Federation for a period of 14 days from the day of their arrival," the document reads.

Under the directive, governors were tasked with overseeing compliance with quarantine rules and providing information to the territorial departments of the Russian Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Wellbeing. Self-isolated people will be provided with social support, if necessary.

The current coronavirus illness was registered in central China at the end of December 2019. On March 11, the World Health Organization declared it a pandemic. COVID-19 infection cases have been recorded in more than 140 countries.

People's Daily





Nicholas Rosellini

## China puts public health concerns first in its fight against COVID-19 - UN

By Nicholas Rosellini

2020 marks my fourth year at the United Nations in China. 2020 is also a watershed for the UN - the 75th anniversary of its founding and the beginning of a decade of action, with only ten years left to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). And here in China, 2020 is the year the government has vowed to eradicate poverty across the country.

However, the recent outbreak of a Novel Coronavirus is threatening to destabilize these efforts unless everyone, from governments to the private sector, step up and support those most in need.

The COVID-19 is a devastating outbreak with an unprecedented response. Like many of you, I follow the situation on a regular basis.

Today, we stand at 88,948 confirmed cases globally, the vast majority of these still here in China. Many unknowns still exist and around the world many are feeling anxious.

Since the outbreak was confirmed and reported to the World Health Organization (WHO) on December 31st 2019, the situation has developed quickly and continues to evolve.

Given the dynamic nature of the situation, China has mobilized itself and adopted comprehensive and rigorous preventive and control measures.

For this, I must congratulate the Chinese government, as despite the severe social and economic impact many of these preventive measures are having on the Chinese people, the government has put public health concerns first.

At the UN we hope these measures are short in duration, since, even though China's health system has been significantly strengthened over the past years, any country's health system would be challenged by an outbreak of a new virus with many unknowns, as we are seeing now.

And importantly, we must make sure this emergency doesn't detract from the development goal of this year - eliminating extreme poverty.

Poorer communities without the capacity or resources may be disproportionately affected, and there's also the impact on the health system for people not necessarily suffering from COVID-19, but from other illnesses which may not be prioritized because of the attention on the coronavirus. Beyond the health system, there's also the impact on the education system with children not being able to go to school and the broader economic impact as well.

Since the beginning of the outbreak the international community has mobilized to help the people of China. At the UN, we've urgently procured much-needed emergency supplies, from masks to monitoring stations. And aside from supporting the immediate health impacts, the UN is ready to support China with the broader socio-economic impacts, both now and in the long term.

Each UN agency stands firmly together with WHO, bringing their own development expertise. Already UNDP is translating the key health messages across regional dialects, to make sure those vulnerable ethnic minority groups have access to this critical information they need. UNICEF has created an online information portal for parents to help them keep their children safe. UNAIDS has launched a nationwide survey to make sure all those living with HIV are still receiving the help they need during this difficult time.

All these actions together are supporting our mandate - to leave no one behind, especially during this very challenging time.

My sincere hope is that we come together as an international community with China, without discrimination and without stigma. As the UN Secretary-General has said: "At this time of heightened anxiety we must stand together in solidarity and compassion" - I cannot echo his message enough. Zhong Guo Jia You - stay strong, the United Nations system stand firmly with the people of China during this critical time.

(The author is the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations in China.)



**All these actions together are supporting our mandate - to leave no one behind, especially during this very challenging time**

## Attempts to isolate Crimea continue, but it's harder to carry them out - Russian diplomat

MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S opponents continue their attempts to isolate Crimea, but it's becoming increasingly difficult to accomplish this task, Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the Black Sea peninsula's reunification with Russia.

"The attempts of isolating Crimea continue, but it's becoming more difficult for our opponents to pursue this policy," Zakharova stated.

According to the diplomat, opinion polls carried out in the Black Sea peninsula con-

firm "a positive atmosphere of inter-ethnic and inter-religious relations there." "Against this background, any attempts of disrupting social and political stability in Crimea are doomed to failure," the statement reads.

Crimea is a Russian region that is "mostly subjected to foreign destructive influence," but it has been successfully overcoming all difficulties, Zakharova noted.

"The task to counter blatantly unfriendly Russophobic policy requires consolidated efforts, comprehensive political and legal, financial and economic, information and propagan-



da, and cultural and humanitarian measures. In view of this, over the past time the country's leadership and Crimean citizens have made a great effort," she stressed.

Looking back with hindsight over Crimea's decision to rejoin Russia six years ago, we, according to Maria Zakharova, can conclude that there were no alternatives to that move "amid the tense situation unfolding around the peninsula."

"As a result, Crimea did not fall victim to radical nationalists but, having joined Russia, it avoided social and political turbulence seen in the post-Maidan Ukraine.

Crimea escaped the fate of becoming a testing range for NATO forces' maneuvers aimed against our country," the diplomat explained.

"Numerous foreign guests arriving in the peninsula have a chance to assess without bias the efforts of federal and regional authorities on improving living conditions of Crimeans, bolstering inter-religious peace and protecting national minorities' rights," Zakharova added, recalling that more than 70 important international events were held in Crimea and Sevastopol in 2019.

Agencies

## Malawi president sacks army chief

LILONGWE

MALAWI President Peter Mutharika on Tuesday fired the country's Army Commander General Vincent Nundwe and his deputy Lieutenant Clement Namangale of their duties replacing them with new personnel, an official statement released on Tuesday evening.

According to the statement from the Office of the President and Cabinet, Mutharika has appointed Major General Andrew Lapken Namathanga as new Commander

General of the Malawi Defence Force (MDF) and Brigadier General Davis Sesatino Mtachi, as Deputy. Mutharika has since promoted the two to the ranks of General and Lieutenant General, respectively, following the appointments. Until his appointment, Namathanga, was MDF's Air Force Commander while Mtachi was Deputy Commander for Landed Forces.

The statement stated that the new appointments are with immediate effect, and that "Meanwhile, General Nundwe and Lieutenant General Namangale will be assigned other duties

in the public service". Mutharika has also promoted Brigadier General Elias Mpsa to Major General and Commander for Landed Forces replacing Major General Alick Bentry Mhone who has since been axed from the hierarchy.

MDF Commander for Maritime Force, Brigadier Francis Blessings Kakhuta Banda, has maintained his role but he has since been promoted to the rank of Major General while his deputy, Colonel Richard Chagonapanja is now a Brigadier General.

Xinhua

## Joe Biden edges closer to Democratic nomination with blowout wins

WASHINGTON

JOE Biden coasted to blowout victories in Tuesday's three Democratic presidential primaries, expanding his nearly unbeatable lead in the race to challenge US President Donald Trump in November and increasing pressure on rival Bernie Sanders to end his campaign.

The dominating wins in Florida, Illinois and Arizona were a sign Democrats were ready to rally behind Biden and turn their focus to the looming Nov 3 election battle against Trump, before the campaign enters an extended hiatus with no primary votes scheduled for weeks amidst the coronavirus outbreak.

The victories also raised questions about whether Sanders should continue his pursuit of the White House. Party leaders have worried about a repeat of 2016, when they believe the US senator's long, bitter primary battle with Hillary Clinton played a role in her upset loss to Trump, 73.

Biden, 77, strung together a series of decisive wins, routing Sanders by nearly 40 percentage points in Florida, 20 points in Illinois and more than 10 points in Arizona.

In somber remarks broadcast from his home in Delaware, the former vice president said the coronavirus outbreak demanded leadership from the White House, and made an appeal to the many young supporters drawn to Sanders, a democratic socialist.

"Let me say especially to the young voters who have been inspired by Senator Sanders: I hear you. I know what's at stake. I know what we have to do," he said. "Our goal as a campaign and my goal as a candidate for president was to unify this party and then to unify the nation."

Biden's sweeping victories were powered by a broad coalition of voters of every ideology and demographic, Edison Research polls showed. Young voters between ages 18 and 44 were the only major demographic that backed Sanders on Tuesday, the polls found.

A majority of voters in all three states trusted Biden more than Sanders, 78, to handle a major crisis, the polls found, in a sign the deepening health crisis has increased Biden's appeal as a steady and experienced hand.

They also found seven of 10 voters in all three states believed Biden had the best chance of beating Trump, a crucial factor in this year's Democratic race where electability has been the top priority for many voters.

Because of the coronavirus, Edison Research, which normally conducts exit polls, spoke by telephone



to early voters and others who planned to vote.

Biden's overpowering performance in Florida, a traditional battleground state where he won every county, was an encouraging general election sign for Democrats. Trump narrowly beat Clinton in Florida in 2016.

Biden had taken command of the Democratic race in the past two weeks, scoring victories in 16 of the last 21 state contests. His sweep on Tuesday extended his lead over Sanders to roughly 230 delegates in the chase for the 1,991 delegates needed to clinch the nomination at July's Democratic convention.

Despite escalating concerns about the coronavirus outbreak that has shut down large public gatherings across the country, Edison Research estimated Democratic turnout in Florida at 1.85 million - more than the 1.7 million who voted in 2016 and 1.75 million in 2008.

### 'A REAL DISASTER'

The polls also showed about half of voters in Illinois were "very concerned" about the potential effects of the outbreak, which caused Ohio to cancel its planned nominating contest on Tuesday.

"Our goal is that no one will have to choose between their constitutional rights and risking their health," Ohio Governor Mike DeWine told a news conference on Tuesday, adding that going ahead with the vote would have been "a real, real disaster."

Several states have postponed their Democratic presidential primaries, including Georgia, which had been scheduled to vote on

March 24; Louisiana, on April 4; Maryland, on April 28; and Kentucky, on May 19.

Tom Perez, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, urged the remaining primary states not to postpone their voting but to focus on ways to make it safer such as voting by mail and extending early voting hours.

Officials in the three states that voted on Tuesday had assured the public it was safe despite fears about the coronavirus, which has dramatically altered American life, forced the campaigns to abandon public events and prompted other states to postpone future primary elections.

In remarks livestreamed online before the voting ended on Tuesday, Sanders did not mention Tuesday's primaries but set out a detailed US\$2 trillion plan to deal with the health and economic impacts of the coronavirus.

Tracy Finger, 53, wore a face mask as he cast a vote for Sanders in Miami. He said he expected the pandemic would offer the eventual Democratic nominee a political boost given the Trump administration's response, which has drawn criticism for a lack of urgency.

Armed with hand sanitizer in his jacket pocket, Bill Monnin, a 60-year-old bartender who was recently laid off because of a lack of business due to the coronavirus, went to cast his ballot in Chicago.

"It's important, it's our responsibility," he said as he walked into Killemer Elementary School on Chicago's north side. "It's not an impossible situation yet. You don't have to stay home."

## US media calls for learning from China in fight against COVID-19

SOME mainstream US media called for learning China's experiences in fighting against the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pneumonia as the epidemic situation is gradually improving in China, including Hubei Province, the epicenter of the deadly outbreak.

The number of new infections and deaths reported in China has been declining in recent weeks, reported US news outlet VOX on Monday, March 2, comparing it with the rate of infected cases that continues to soar in a few other countries, including South Korea, Italy, Iran, and the US.

"It's now critical that the rest of the world learn as much as it can from China's efforts to respond to and limit the spread of the virus," VOX commented.

The key experience that other countries can learn from China is speed, said Bruce Aylward, an epidemiologist who recently led an advance team from the WHO to China.

"The faster you can find the cases, isolate the cases, and track their close contacts, the more successful you're going to be," Aylward told VOX Monday.

The US-based Fortune magazine affirmed China's fast speed in the fight against the virus in an article published on Wednesday. It cited Tom Frieden, former director of the US Centers for Disease Control, who praised China's rapid response and containment efforts at a local public briefing on Monday.

The numerous experiences of frontline Chinese medical staffers treating and curing COVID-19 patients may help doctors and nurses of other countries deal with the virus, US media said.

Hospitals in the rest of the world will likely also benefit from that knowledge, NPR reported Tuesday. "The more patients (Wuhan) medical staff saw, the more they could start identifying what kind of supportive care made a difference," it added.

Apart from medical care, China's efforts in mitigating the risk of virus infection at the community level are also worthwhile experiences for other countries.

When some countries are worried about the already happened gatherings and movements of people, China has demonstrated the right way to reduce the possibility of the virus transmission, VOX quoted Aylward as saying.

Aylward suggested them to learn from China's systematic work of case finding and contact tracing, which "definitely can change the shape of the outbreak," he added.

Global Times



**The task to counter blatantly unfriendly Russophobic policy requires consolidated efforts, comprehensive political and legal, financial and economic, information and propaganda, and cultural and humanitarian**



The  
**Guardian**

# SPORT



Thomas Bach

## Olympic leaders back IOC's Tokyo stance after rare criticism

GENEVA

REGIONAL Olympic officials are rallying around the IOC and have backed its stance on opening the Tokyo Games as scheduled, as direct criticism from gold medalist athletes built amid the coronavirus outbreak.

Leaders of continental Olympic groups praised the IOC after a conference call Wednesday to update them on coronavirus issues four months before the opening ceremony in Tokyo on July 24.

"We are living through an unpredictable crisis and as such, it is important that we have one policy, expressed by the IOC, and we follow that policy in unison," the Italy-based European Olympic Committees said.

However, when the International Olympic Committee published an interview with its president, Thomas Bach, after a separate call with athlete representatives, it prompted a four-time Olympic champion to urge postponing the games.

Bach acknowledged that many athletes were concerned about qualifying events being canceled, but noted that there were still four months to go until the games are set to be opened.

"We will keep acting in a responsible way in the interests of the athletes," Bach said.

British rowing great Matthew Pinsent wrote on Twitter that the comments from Bach, his former IOC colleague, were "tone deaf."

"The instinct to keep safe (not to mention obey govt instructions to lock down) is not compatible with athlete training, travel and focus that a looming Olympics demands of athletes, spectators organisers," Pinsent wrote. "Keep them safe. Call it off."

One of the IOC's 100 members had earlier broken ranks in a rare public criticism of the body's unwavering strategy.

"I think the IOC insisting this will move ahead, with such conviction, is insensitive and irresponsible given the state of humanity," Hayley Wickenheiser, a four-time Olympic hockey gold medalist, said.

Wickenheiser, a Canadian who is training to be a doctor and was voted to the IOC by fellow athletes at the 2014 Sochi Olympics, posted on social media that she was elected "to represent and protect athletes."

Her concern about athletes' troubled preparations for Tokyo – "as facilities close and qualification events are canceled all over the world" – were echoed by 2016 Olympic pole vault champion Katerina Stefanidi.

AP

## Silver says NBA will consider many ideas if play can resume

By TIM REYNOLDS

THE NBA is considering an idea where some players would be quarantined or isolated for purposes of being able to compete against one another and provide basketball fans with some sort of diversion from the coronavirus pandemic.

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver revealed that notion as one of several items under consideration by the league right now during the shutdown caused by the pandemic. Silver made the comments in a televised interview on ESPN.

"Maybe it's for a giant fundraiser or just for the collective good of the people," Silver said. "You take a subset of players and is there a protocol in which they can be tested and quarantined and isolated in some way. ... People are stuck at home. They need a diversion. They need to be entertained."

Silver offered no predictions on when NBA games would resume. He said the league may, when conditions allow, resume games but without fans – a move the league was going to make last week before Utah's Rudy Gobert tested positive for COVID-19 and prompted the league to go on what it thought would be a hiatus, not a stoppage that is certain to reach multiple weeks and likely months.

Silver, as he often does, said he hopes the NBA can be a conduit to spark positive change in the country – especially now when there will be a real need.

AP

## Morogoro militia, public officials urged to uphold fitness training

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

MOROGORO Regional Administrative Secretary, Emmanuel Kalobelo, has called on the region's militia and public officials to regularly take part in physical training with the aim of diseases.

Kalobelo made the call after he had participated in a 3km race, which started at his office and ended at the Jamhuri Stadium in the region early this week.

The race's participants also featured in fitness training after the culmination of the race.

Fitness instructors from Tanzania Moja Movement (TMM), in cooperation with some of Morogoro jogging clubs' members, led the fitness training session.

The event's participants included officers from Prisons, Police, Army, Immigration, Mzingo Tank, Morogoro Municipal officials and Morogoro jogging clubs' members.

Participation in fitness, as disclosed by Kalobelo, will help people withstand diseases that include coronavirus, which is lately ravaging several parts of the world.

Kalobelo said other diseases including diabetes can simply be dealt with by embracing fitness training.

With scientists having yet to discover a cure for coronavirus, the official noted, the nation will certainly experience loss of lives should people not regularly feature in fitness training.

"Exercises are best therapy



Morogoro Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS), Emmanuel Kalobelo (front row, L) holds a banner bearing a message on the battle against coronavirus after morning training session that took place at Jamhuri Stadium in the region recently. Motivating people to regularly take part in fitness training is set to be a slogan regional officials will use in their meetings. Looking on are Tanzania Moja Movement (TMM)'s regional coordinator Innocent Kembo (R) and other fitness training facilitators. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

for diabetes and other non-communicable diseases (NCDs), motivating people to take part in exercises should be our slogan before and after either any public meeting or social gathering," he disclosed.

Innocent Kembo, TMM's regional coordinator, said the movement has

already registered 300 members since its launch three months ago.

The movement, he disclosed, targets to hold capacity building seminars for citizens about means for curbing either diseases or any other natural hazard like floods.

"Our members are committed

to run researches with the aim of revealing to what extent development projects have been achieved after the government directed funds on the projects," he disclosed.

"Besides, members donate blood as an emergency at the regional hospital."

## Flame arrival faces rising tension Tokyo Olympics be delayed



In this March 18, 2020, file photo, ground crews of Japanese airlines wave to the special "Tokyo 2020 Go" aircraft that will transport the Olympic Flame to Japan after the Torch Handover Ceremony in Greece, departs at Haneda International Airport in Tokyo. The Olympic flame from Greece is set to arrive in Japan even as the opening of the Tokyo Games in four months is in doubt with more voices suggesting the games should be postponed or canceled because of the worldwide virus pandemic. (AP Photo)

TOKYO

THE Olympic flame from Greece is set to arrive in Japan even as the opening of the Tokyo Games in four months is in doubt with more voices suggesting the event should be postponed or canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The flame touches down Friday aboard a white aircraft painted with the inscription "Tokyo 2020 Olympic Torch Relay" along its side, and "Hope Lights Our Way" stenciled near the tail section.

Everything about the arrival ceremony at the Matsushima air base in northern Japan will be subdued. The flame is to be greeted by a few dignitaries, saluted by a flyover from an aerial acrobatic team – if weather permits – and then used to ignite a cauldron.

The burning vessel will be displayed in three northern prefectures before the official relay begins on March 26 from Fukushima prefecture, which was devastated nine years ago by an earthquake, tsunami and the meltdown of three nuclear reactors.

Thousands of people from the region are still in temporary housing

and life has not returned to normal for many. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe hopes to use the Olympics to crown his run as Japan's longest serving premier, and many suggest he may not be around if the games are put off and the economy slumps.

Taro Aso, the Japanese finance minister and former prime minister, characterized Tokyo's Games as the "cursed Olympics" speaking on Wednesday in a parliamentary committee. Aso was born in 1940, the year Tokyo was to hold its first Olympics, which were called off ahead of World War II.

"This isn't a phrase that the press could like to hear, but it's true," said Aso, who was a member of Japan's shooting team at the 1976 Olympics in Montreal. Aso pointed out that even as the situation in Japan and Asia improves, it's worse globally.

"We certainly hope to have a situation where everyone can at least come to Japan feeling safe and happy," Aso said. "But the question is how we do that. It is something that Japan alone cannot achieve, and I don't have an answer to this."

Getting the flame to Japan represents a small victory for the

International Olympic Committee and local organizers, who maintain the Olympics will open as scheduled on July 24 and be followed by the Paralympics on Aug. 25.

Even if they don't, the burning flame could be used as a symbol – particularly if the games are eventually delayed – and a rallying point for the Japanese public.

In a conference call on Wednesday, IOC President Thomas Bach got support for holding the course, but is also getting push back from athletes who can't train, are confused about the qualification process, and worry about their health. Critics are also complaining about the unfairness of qualifying, which might give some athletes advantages over others.

An IOC member, four-time Olympic ice hockey gold medalist Hayley Wickenheiser has broken publicly with Bach.

"I think the IOC insisting this will move ahead, with such conviction, is insensitive and irresponsible given the state of humanity," said Wickenheiser, who is training to be a physician.

"Keep them safe. Call it off," Matthew Pinsent, a four-time Olympic

gold-medal rower and former IOC member, said on Twitter.

The four-month torch relay could be fraught with problems, particularly for sponsors Coca-Cola and Toyota, which have invested millions for the publicity. The torch relay tradition dates from Adolph Hitler's 1936 Olympics in Berlin.

The torch relay in Greece, following the symbolic lighting on March 12, was stopped during the second day and did not resume because of large crowds.

Tokyo organizers have stripped most of the festivities from the relay, and have asked roadside crowds to be "restrained" and keep their distance from others. If this does not happen, organizers say they could stop the relay, or delay it.

Tokyo 2020 chief executive Toshiro Muto has struggled to explain exactly how reserved crowds are expected to be.

"We don't want to talk about the definition of refraining," he said. "But we don't want people to feel there is an all-out blanket request for refraining. So basically it depends on your interpretation."

AP



## Neymar leaves Paris amid coronavirus outbreak

PARIS

NEYMAR and Paris Saint-Germain teammate Thiago Silva have returned home to Brazil due to the coronavirus pandemic, leaving France before the country went into lockdown on Tuesday, PSG have confirmed to ESPN.

PSG gave all the players the authorisation to leave the country and self-isolate where they wanted or stay home in Paris, where lockdown orders came into effect at 12 p.m. local time on Tuesday. Some like Neymar and Silva decided to leave, but with the agreement of the club.

Silva's wife, Isabele, confirmed via social media that the couple were in Paris as early as Tuesday morning, but sources have confirmed to ESPN that Silva and his wife have since made it back to Brazil.

Other members of PSG's coaching and playing staff have returned home but some have opted to stay

with their families in the French capital.

Defender Marquinhos chose to remain in France over returning to Brazil, sources said.

Despite restrictions caused by the coronavirus, PSG players have been given instructions by the coaching staff to maintain their fitness levels.

These plans include eight minutes of warm up, 10 minutes of doing weights (pushing at least their own weights or more), 40 minutes of running on the treadmill with a change of pace and five minutes of warm down.

The club hasn't decided yet when full training will resume.

France's top two divisions have been suspended indefinitely, while the rest of European domestic football has been thrown into chaos with the Premier League, Serie A and La Liga also disrupted.

(Agencies)

## Players in Norway temporarily laid off due to virus

OSLO

PROFESSIONAL footballers in Norway have been temporarily laid off as clubs struggle to cope with the economic impact of the spread of the coronavirus, with the government stepping in to cover wages, players' union NISO has told Reuters.

With stadiums closed and uncertainty over TV revenues, clubs in other countries have issued financial warnings as the virus continues to spread, and Norway is believed to be the first country to announce such sweeping temporary layoffs.

While clubs in countries like England and Spain can pay top players and managers huge salaries backed by lucrative TV deals and sponsorship agreements, teams in smaller European countries often live on the edge, trying to pay competitive wages while balancing the books.

Norwegian football acted quickly as the virus took hold, quarantining players who had been abroad for 14 days, cancelling the national team's Euro 2020 playoff with Serbia and suspending all football activity including training.

The temporary layoffs are the next step in protecting the long-term future of the game, said Joachim Walltin, who is the director of NISO.

"They are only temporarily laid off at the discretion of their clubs and it is because the authorities have decided that all sports activities, including training, will be stopped until March 26 - they are not dismissed, but are not allowed

to work for a temporary period," Walltin explained.

"The authorities have provided emergency packages to help and anyone earning between 75,000 and 600,000 Norwegian crowns (\$7,000 and \$55,000) per year will receive full pay for up to 20 days - what happens after March 26, we must wait and see."

While Norway has hosted some well-known names, like former Denmark international Nicklas Bendtner, salaries are usually a lot lower than those on offer in bigger European leagues, despite the relatively high taxes and cost of living.

Young players on modest deals and non-Norwegians on short-term contracts are particularly vulnerable.

"Those who earn less than 75,000 crowns and foreign players who do not have a contract of 12 months or more will not be entitled to unemployment benefits, and we and club organisations and federations have encouraged the clubs to pay special attention to these players," Walltin said.

Despite the special circumstances, the union boss said that the layoffs, which apply to men and women at the elite levels of the game in Norway, did not mean that players were free to leave their clubs if they were not paid on time.

"It is a rather special solution for Norway, and they cannot be automatically transferred to other countries. The authorities are paying many, many billions to help people who are laid off and that helps, of course," Walltin said.

(Agencies)

## La Liga clubs reject coronavirus testing

MADRID

REAL Valladolid, Osasuna and Eibar are among Spain's top-flight clubs that have turned down coronavirus tests provided by La Liga, with some donating them to vulnerable groups with symptoms.

La Liga hired a private medical service to include 500 coronavirus tests before the government called a state of emergency in the country on Saturday.

"It's true that La Liga put at our disposal the tests but we haven't used them because of medical and social criteria," Real Valladolid spokesman David Espinar said on Wednesday.

"None of our players have symptoms and we believe there are other groups that are less privileged and in more need. They are the ones that should have priority."

Basque club Eibar have donated their test kits, which are in great demand, to the local health authorities. Osasuna have opted not to make use of their tests as members of their squad have yet to show any symptoms related to the coronavi-

rus.

La Liga president Javier Tebas, meanwhile, has defended their decision to make available tests to all professional clubs in Spain.

Spanish Football Federation president Luis Rubiales had branded La Liga "irresponsible and totally unpatriotic" for testing players for coronavirus, and added it showed "a lack of solidarity."

"Unpatriotic? It's not the time to talk about patriotism or who is more patriotic," Tebas told reporters. "We've had the tests since last Thursday morning and we had already hired this private service. We all work for this competition."

"La Liga had the duty to hire this service. La Liga has cooperated and continues to cooperate with society and with many issues relating to the coronavirus. There are no first-class and second class-citizens."

Spain's top-flight is on hold for two matchdays, while the rest of European domestic football has been thrown into chaos with the Premier League, Serie A, Bundesliga and Ligue 1 also disrupted.

(Agencies)

# UEFA's biggest challenge: Easing the economic impact on European soccer

By Gabriele Marcotti, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

IN times of crisis, you want the powers-that-be to get the easy, obvious stuff out of the way quickly. If water is gushing out of your washing machine, find the standpipe, and cut the supply. If sparks are flying out of your electric oven, cut the power supply. Then you worry about how the damage was done and how you're going to fix it. In that spirit, UEFA's decision to postpone Euro 2020 a full year was just that: an immediate decision that no reasonable person was going to oppose, given the coronavirus outbreak.

That was the easy part, and it bought them some time. Now comes the real challenge: figuring out a calendar that works (my colleague Mark Ogden wrote about this here) and assessing and reacting to the economic impact.

That is the central sticking point. UEFA say postponing the Euros will cost around 300 million Euros (\$327 million), whereas cancelling the event altogether would have cost close to 400 million Euros (\$436 million). But here's some simple math. If the tournament is held next summer, it should still generate some 2.1 billion Euros (\$2.5 billion). Subtract 300 million from 2.1 billion, and you're still made 1.8 billion. Cancel the tournament, and you're subtracting 400 million from zero, which is what you make when you don't stage the tournament at all.

Why does the money matter? Because UEFA's money isn't really their money. The vast majority of what they make flows straight back out, primarily to clubs, in the form of prize money for the Europa League and Champions League, and federations, in the form of direct support and fees when they play in UEFA competitions.

UEFA's financial accounts are fairly clear. In 2017-18, more than 85% of their revenue went to teams participating in UEFA competitions, contributions to associations and solidarity payments. Event organisation, referees, match officers and technology/broadcast costs came to 9.4%. UEFA employee salary and benefits accounted for less than 3%.

Put differently, there's now a 300 million Euro "hole" in UEFA's finances, and it might grow larger if broadcasters and commercial partners try to claw back some of the money they spent on the Europa League and Champions League. After all, they signed a contract guaranteeing a certain number of games in certain specific slots, and now they'll get less than what was promised if, as appears certain, we get a reduced version of the competition in order to wrap everything up by the end of July.

So the 300 million shortfall could grow even bigger, but as stated above, in real terms, it isn't UEFA's money. The vast majority of it is money that goes to member football associations and clubs. The question is how to divide up those costs: Do you do it proportionally, or do you do it based on need?

In the 2017-18 accounts, Liechtenstein received 1.14 million Euros (\$1.24 million) in yearly solidarity payments for its national team. Moldova received 1.3 million Euros (\$1.41 million). Moldova's population is about 70 times higher than Liechtenstein's, and its per capita GDP of \$3,400 is nearly 1/30th that of Liechtenstein's. If cuts need to be made, I know who I think is best equipped to handle the deeper cuts.

Of course, it will get trickier with the Champions League and Europa League. Why? Because bigger clubs from wealthier TV markets might argue that they generate most of the cash. It's true, too:



UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin faces a significant battle in the coming months as soccer's powers decide how to offset the losses caused by an unprecedented shutdown. (Agencies)

Broadcasters from Luxembourg to Lithuania shell out cash for Champions League rights based on delivering their viewers games involving the likes of Real Madrid and Liverpool, not Krasnodar and Dinamo Zagreb. That's why you already have things like the market pool and historical merit to reward the big brands from the big markets, and that's where things will get distinctly hairy.

Many clubs don't particularly like to share in times of plenty. They enjoy it even less when they are hit in the pocketbook in other ways: from lost gate receipts to potentially domestic broadcast holders and sponsors trying to claw back money to the simple fact that if there's a global recession as a result of the pandemic (in case you hadn't noticed, the Dow is down nearly 30%, year over year), everybody is poorer and less likely to spend money.

That means the "working group" set up by UEFA to deal with this have their work cut out for them. Dividing up a much smaller pie when everybody is hungry (and some face starvation) is neither easy nor straightforward.

They have big calls to make, including whether to dip into their cash reserves (currently estimated to be around half a billion dollars) or relax Financial Fair Play regulations (this would seem like a no-brainer to me).

They'll be doing this against a broader backdrop of every institution, from domestic leagues to FIFA, doing their part to pitch in. For smaller clubs, there will

be immediate cash flow issues. In England, Barnet have laid off their entire non-playing staff.

Others might follow suit, and in part, that's because many clubs (perhaps too many clubs) live week-to-week, and as soon as you cut off their main means of revenue - gate receipts - they risk going off the rails.

"We know how clubs are managed. They're always right at the line or even above the line," FIFPro General Secretary Jonas Baer-Hoffmann said. "There simply aren't a lot of reserves that clubs can bank on. If we don't respond very quickly to stabilise the cash flow of clubs, we'll have a massive problem of liquidity. We need to come up with a system where football helps itself."

The problem is that football is by nature a competitive, dog-eat-dog world. Last week, Hans-Joachim Watzke, the Borussia Dortmund chief executive, was very blunt: "At the end of the day, the clubs who have the effort to put a bit of money aside these past years can't reward those who have not ... We're running businesses in a market, and we're in competition."

He might sound like the Grinch, and those who remember back just over a decade will recognise that his club was on the brink of bankruptcy, helped by rivals such as Bayern Munich.

But it doesn't mean he that doesn't have a point. Any bailout, whether it's advance payment of TV rights, tax credits or low-interest loans, has to come with

strings attached, starting with a commitment to total financial transparency going forward.

There has to be serious oversight and tough requirements for liquidity and reserves. You can't have owners borrowing against club assets or making other risky decisions, as happened at Bury and at several other clubs. The best way to guarantee oversight is to crowdsource it. As well as liquidity requirements and a regulatory body with power, have all the books online so that local fans and media can keep a watchful eye.

That's an idea for the future. Right now, the good news is that the main actors are saying the right things.

FIFA agreed to move the inaugural 24-team Club World Cup from 2021 to a future date without a peep of protest. They also said they're open to revising both transfer regulations and the international match calendar to help in this emergency situation. That's essential. You want to be hopeful that this sort of diplomacy and solidarity can start at the top and trickle down.

We don't know what lies ahead or for how long. We need diplomacy and selflessness and willingness from FIFA, UEFA and domestic leagues to put their self-interests aside.

To paraphrase legendary Miami Sharks coach Tony D'Amato (so legendary, in fact, that he's a fictional character), the institutions that govern the game will either stand collectively and survive, or they will fall as individuals.

## Ronaldinho: from World Cup winner to Paraguayan prison football star

By Francisco Navas

FOOTBALL in South America is all but shut down as the Covid-19 outbreak spreads across the continent, but one Brazilian star is still making his mark on the game. Ronaldinho, whose last professional game came in 2015 for Fluminense, scored five goals this weekend and set up another six. Admittedly he did this from a Paraguayan jail, but such details are trivial during a global crisis.

As first reported by the Paraguayan newspaper La Nación, Ronaldinho was taken into custody in the country's capital, Asunción, on 6 March. He and his brother had allegedly used fake Paraguayan passports and IDs, although his lawyer maintains that his client did not know the documents were falsified, as they were given to him by a local sponsor.

Ronaldinho is now in a maximum-security prison. There, he shares a cell, which "looks more like a hotel", according to Paraguay's home secretary, with his brother Roberto de Assis Moreira. In the same cell block is a former president of Paraguay's football association, who was jailed for money laundering.

South American and Spanish media flocked to the story like tourists to Camp Nou, reporting every possible detail of the former Barcelona star's life in jail.

On a local radio show the warden let a few details slip: Prisoner No194 wakes up at eight most mornings, has had visits from former Paraguay star Nelson Cuevas and is "just how you might see him on television, always smiling".

The warden would not go into details on the most important issue though: Ronaldinho's football career in prison. Still, the rumours



flew, especially after authorities denied his request for house arrest and a bond of \$1.6m.

Local outlets reported that the 39-year-old had been asked to play by several teams in prison but initially declined because he lacked boots. Others said he was asked to play under the stipulation that he would not be allowed to score in the tournament, in which the trophy was a 16kg roast pig.

Just days later though we had the truth. Photos and videos leaked from the jail showed the 2005 Ballon d'Or winner bringing the magic back for his new team, Negro Cumbiero. Kitted out in a vest, black boots and swimming trunks, Ronaldinho played a part in

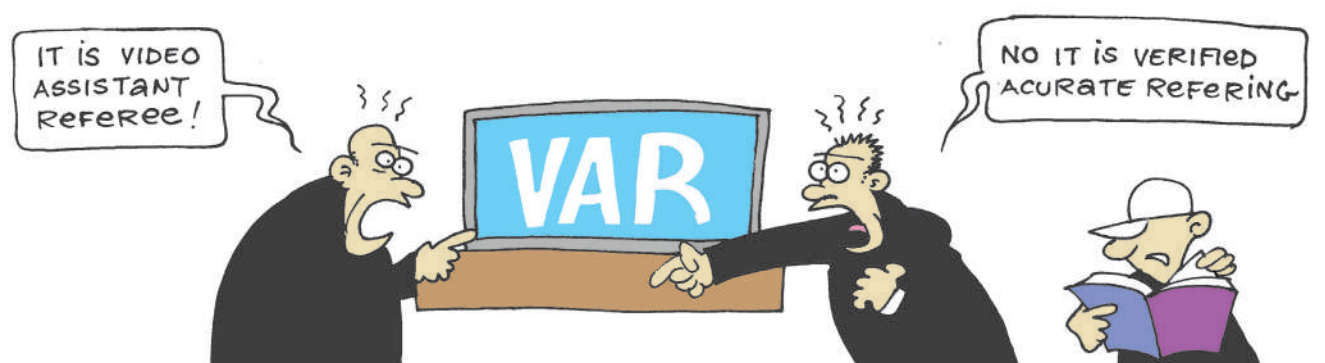
every goal of his team's 11-2 win (the match was actually futsal rather than football) and treated his fellow inmates to a casual no-look backheeled assist.

But while the old skills are there, the lingering feeling from watching the videos is one of melancholy for a man who once graced some of football's biggest stages.

Ronaldinho turns 40 this month, and it is likely he will celebrate his birthday behind bars. It's a feeling shared by his 2002 World Cup teammate Rivaldo: "I'm sad over what's happening to my friend. He does not deserve it," he said.

(The Guardian)

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

UEFA's biggest challenge: Easing the economic impact on European soccer

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Upanga Darts Club (UDC) players celebrate with a trophy after the culmination of this season's Dar es Salaam regional championship, held in the city recently. The UDC lifted the silverware in the competition, which brought together 11 teams. PHOTO: COURTESY OF UPANGA DARTS CLUB

## Dar club holds sway in regional darts championship

By Guardian Reporter

UPANGA Darts Club (UDC) has stretched its dominance in the sport in Dar es Salaam, given the club lifted the top honour in this season's regional championship which took place in the city recently.

Eleven outfits, including one from Morogoro, took part in the competition, which took part at K.T Chinese Club in Temeke District.

The competition had male players featuring in singles, doubles and team events, female players participated in singles and doubles events.

The participating sides were put in Groups A and B with Group A having been made up of Police, Lugalo, K.T Chinese C, K.T Chinese B, Morogoro Tex and Ibukoni.

Group B consisted of UDC, Mbezi, Segerea, Ngome and K.T Chinese A. The competition's team event had the clubs playing round robin matches, with two sides from either group securing qualification for the semi-finals and later locking horns for a place in the final.

The in-form UDC players put scintillating showing on the dartboard in the group stage, helping their squad win three matches and post draw in one to secure the top spot in the Group B and make it to the last four.

They opened their campaign with 9-7 victory over Segerea, they later managed 8-8 draw with K.T Chinese A, one of the hosts' three sides which participated in the tournament.

Ngome was UDC's next victim in the group stage, given the latter walloped the former 11-5.

In their last group stage match, UDC mercilessly punished Mbezi, commanding 13-3 victory over the latter.

In the first of the semi-final stage clashes, UDC confronted Ibukoni which came second in Group A, the former registered 9-4 victory over the latter.

The second semi-final, involving the hosts' teams K.T Chinese C and K.T Chinese A, ended with K.T Chinese C making short work of their opponents to book a place in the final.

The UDC players put their experience to show in the final, guiding their outfit to 9-6 victory over K.T Chinese C and lift the trophy.

Ashok Motichand, Nanji Bhudia, Sameer Rashid, Mehboob Khakoo, Azim HajiMohamed, Alikhan Wallani and skipper, Ravi Joshi, made the UDC squad in the championship.

The UDC squad's efforts to make their presence felt in championship's men's singles ended in vain, given the squad's veteran player, HajiMohamed, crashed out of the last four stage.

He narrowly succumbed to defeat to Morogoro Tex' Tahir in the semi-finals.

Ngome Club had the last laugh in the men's singles given the club's player, Sylvester, lifted the top honour with victory over Lugalo Club's Juma in the final.

A delighted Wallani, who also skips Aga Khan Darts Club, pointed out the UDC victory in this season's regional championship will motivate the team to put good showing in the National Darts Championship, slated for later this year.

HajiMohamed, who is also the Dar es Salaam Darts (DADA) official, noted the body had to bank on participation fee to meet the regional championship's organization costs, given the association had no sponsors for the tournament.

He disclosed he was nevertheless impressed by stiff competition which was showcased by participating teams, insisting the aspect is crucial for the sport's success in the region.

He moreover noted he is optimistic the regional event has served as a timely platform for the teams to shape up for the National Championship, which is organized by Tanzania Darts (TADA).

## Visual artist champions fight against Coronavirus spread

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA's realistic painter Athuman Hamis, has come up with a cartoon which is aimed at sensitizing people on ways to prevent the spread of Coronavirus in the country.

Hamis, popularly known as 'Ochu', named his cartoon 'Bongo Bhana'.

He said the aim is to use comic to educate people on the dangers caused by Coronavirus.

"I think it's the duty of everyone to educate people on the dangers of Coronavirus and how one can prevent himself or herself from this epidemic," he noted.

"I'm using my God-given talent to educate people on this, it's the duty of any person to inform about the Coronavirus," he said.

He said plans are underway to find mediums where the cartoon will be appealing.

Currently, the country has registered six cases of Coronavirus.

The self-taught 24-year old realistic painter, who is based at Mwenge Vinyago in Dar es Salaam, said the Coronavirus has negatively affected visual arts business in the country.

He said his business and that of others depend on foreign tourists and, due to the Coronavirus outbreak, many are not coming to buy the artists' products.

"Due to this Covid-19 many tourists are not coming, it must be known that majority of tourists who come at our Mwenge Vinyago business area are from Italy. In short the business is not going on well but we are hoping for a better tomorrow," he said.

Ochu admires the works of United States of America (USA) acrylic painter, Nick Sider.

Ochu disclosed he dreams of becoming a prominent realistic painter in the continent.



A cartoon, dubbed 'Bongo Bhana', which has been done by visual artist Athuman Hamis, gears towards educating people on the dangers of Coronavirus.



Mwanza cyclists pictured shortly before they had taken part in a past race in the city.

# African Cycling Championships 2020 postponed

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Cycling Association (Chabata) has disclosed that the African Cycling Championships which was slated for the end of this month in Mauritius has been postponed to June due to the spread of Coronavirus.

The African Cycling Championships, organized by African Cycling Confederation (CAC), had been scheduled for March 24-29 in Port Louis.

Speaking yesterday, Chabata secretary general Geoffrey Mhagama said he has received information from championships' organizers that the event has been postponed to June at dates to be announced later.

He said the organizers have said the

championships have been postponed due to coronavirus surge.

He said six domestic riders were undergoing extensive training in Kahama in readiness for the championships.

"Today, the organizers of the African Cycling Championships have communicated to us that the championships have been postponed to June, they said this is the measure to control the spread of coronavirus," he said.

He said he is in full support of the postponement of the championships, the Chabata secretary general described the decision as the best move as it put the safety of riders first.

"Personally, I support the move, although the riders have spent a lot of time preparing for the event, their safety is

above anything else, it is good to suspend it until the situation with the outbreak is normalized," he said.

Mauritius has also suspended hosting of COSAFA 2020 Women Under-17 Championship scheduled for April 17-26.

According to COSAFA website, the hosts made the decision as a measure to contain the spread of the pandemic in the country.

"This follows a media briefing on Monday, where Prime Minister of Mauritius, Pravind Jugnauth, outlined the nation's plans to counter the spread of the coronavirus pandemic."

"This will include the closing of borders with certain countries, which will make travel to the island difficult," said part of the release from COSAFA.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko



**EATV FRIDAY**

**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 Mid Week Movie (r)  
13:30 Kali Za Wana  
14:00 Bongo Hits  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Wakilisha (r)  
16:00 Ujenzi (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 SSELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Skonga  
19:30 EATV SAA I  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 Friday Night Live  
23:00 Kurasa (r)

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**eastafrika RADIO**

06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 Friday Night Live

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